Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 118 | SATURDAY - SUNDAY MAY 19-20, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com 50¢

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you support the idea of privatizing the Commonwealth Health Center?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

Bomb blasts and arrests mark a general strike in Bangladesh.

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YOUNGSTYLE

Fourteen-year-old Peter Dziak is the Justin Bieber of the Irish dancing world.

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LIFE & STYLE

Queen of Disco Donna Summer dies at 63.

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Tinian residents offer sales to Marines. PAGE 5

CNMI weighs US Social Security terms; HB 17-226 for withdrawal

AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Construction employees of GPPC Inc. ride on the back of a truck after a day's work on the Cross Island Improvement Project. Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) says the CNMI has some $11 million in unspent Federal Highway Administration funds that could be circulating in the local economy and creating badly needed jobs.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos painted for lawmakers yesterday a picture of the administration's plans and scenarios to help retirees and active members of the NMI Retirement Fund, including weighing the U.S. Social Security Administration's five-year buy back plan to re-accept the CNMI government and recalling from the governor House Bill 17-226, which allows active members to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions.

» **For Fund to remain, benefits will be cut by 50 percent**

If the CNMI government elects not to re-enter the U.S. Social Security system and retain the NMI Retirement Fund, benefits will have to be cut by 50 percent.

Another scenario is for active members to also transition into the U.S. So-

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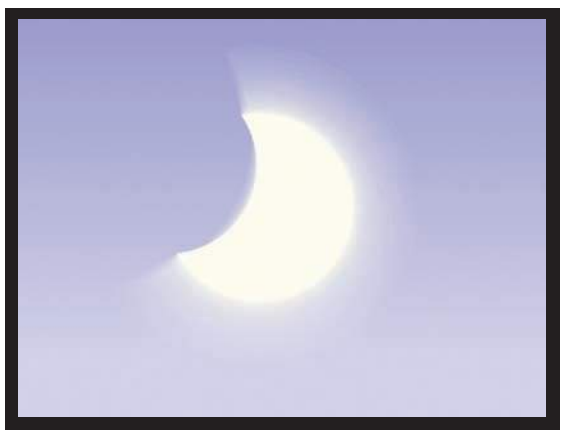
'Ring of Fire' eclipse visible from China to Texas

By ALICIA CHANG
AP SCIENCE WRITER



How an annular solar eclipse would look like on Saipan on Monday, May 21. Source: http://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/Saipan.

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Sunrises and sunsets often dazzle, but they'll have a special ring to them in a few days for people in the western United States and eastern Asia: The moon will slide across the sun, blocking everything but a blazing halo of light.

It's been almost two decades since a "ring of fire" eclipse was visible in the continental United States. To celebrate the end of that drought, nearly three dozen national parks in the path of the eclipse will host viewing parties.

■■■

The eclipse will be partially visible on Saipan on Monday, May 21, 2012. The partial eclipse will begin at 7:01am and will be at maximum at 8:05am. The Moon will leave the Sun's edge at 9:21am.

■■■

The solar spectacle is first seen in eastern Asia at dawn Monday, local time.

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Saipan regular gas falls below $5

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan's regular gas fell below the $5-mark after Mobil Oil Mariana Islands reduced its pump prices by another 10 cents a gallon at 3pm yesterday, bringing relief to motorists that are already burdened with high electricity costs and pay cuts.

» **Another 10-cent price cut**

Mobil's latest cut brings to 20 cents the total pump price reduction for gasoline and diesel since May 8.

Regular gasoline is now $4.959 a gallon, from $5.059 a gallon, at Mobil service stations. Super unleaded gasoline is now $5.279 a gallon. Diesel, meanwhile, is now $5.319 a gallon.

Shell Marianas service stations' pump prices remained unchanged late yesterday afternoon but Shell and Mobil always

See GAS on Page 4

A price display at a Mobil Oil Mariana Islands service station shows the latest pump prices after a 10-cent cut yesterday afternoon. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

CPA joins motion to dismiss Fund's bankruptcy petition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday joined the CNMI government's motion to dismiss the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, as counsel for CPA, cited that the CNMI in its motion to dismiss has emphasized the Fund's enabling legislation and its duty as a fiscal and administrative agent of the government with respect to the pension system and its administration of the government's life and health insurance programs.

"In all substantive says, the government's motion to dismiss applies with equal force to CPA," Torres pointed out.

The lawyer said that CPA was created by statute as a public corporation within the government. CPA's functions are governmental and public and may sue and be sued in its own name, he added.

Since the establishment of the Fund, CPA employees have been members of the government pension system and that the employees also participate in the government's life and health insurance programs.

The Fund administers the pension system and the insurance programs.

On Wednesday, the CNMI government, through assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan, filed the motion to dismiss.

Sablan echoed the position of the other parties in the case that the Fund is a government instrumentality and therefore not eligible to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Sablan said the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division should dismiss the Fund's bankruptcy petition because the Fund does not fall within the definition of a person or entity eligible for Chapter 11 protection.

Sablan said the CNMI government is an interested party to this proceeding as it created the Fund.

Two unnamed clients of attorney Bruce Jorgensen first brought up the motion to dismiss on the grounds that the Fund's structure and statutory existence makes it clear that it is a "governmental unit" of the CNMI.

The U.S. Trustee followed Jorgensen's group's motion to dismiss on the same grounds.

Two retirees and members of the NMI Retirement Fund later joined the move to dismiss the Fund's bankruptcy petition.

Tan Holdings' Learning Garden initiatives moves to Garapan public school

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students and staff of Garapan Elementary School, along with representatives of Tan Holdings, Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, and NMC's Environmental Natural Resources Organization, take shelter from the brief rainfall during the Learning Garden initiative launch at the Home of the Mallards on Wednesday. Inset, students plant saplings of tomatoes and eggplants as well as seeds of corn as part of the Learning Garden launch at the island's biggest public elementary school on May 16.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Garapan Elementary School students are now growing their own corn, tomatoes, and eggplants within campus grounds after the Home of the Mallards became the third and last school to be sponsored by Tan Holdings for its Learning Garden initiative

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan led sixth graders under Peter Loken and Asap Ogumoro as well as members of the school's Farm Club in planting the seeds and saplings on Wednesday, which school officials also touted as the revival of the school garden.

Tan Holdings launched the Learning Garden initiative in an effort to promote, among others, food sustainability, nutrition awareness, and environmental stewardship. It is patterned after school learning gardens in the U.S. mainland.

The initiative encourages partnerships between private companies and schools to create gardens aimed at educating students on the importance of farming and agriculture in the CNMI by giving them hands-on instruction on how to grow their own produce.

Tan Holdings launched Learning Garden in February with the objective of sponsoring it in three public schools: Dandan, Oleai, and Garapan elementary schools. The company hopes that other businesses on island will step up to the plate to sponsor one or more schools to uphold the value of farming in the community.

"Farming is always a great thing," Tan told his young audience. "Agriculture is very important to every country because we need to eat. Somebody has to be a farmer so why not some of us? I wish you all the best of luck and to enjoy this learning garden. Please invite me back so we can enjoy what you plant."

Providing assistance during the event were representatives of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, the Environmental Natural Resources Organization or ENRO also from NMC, and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

Wednesday's planting activity was cut short owing to a passing rainfall. Still, the students maintained their high spirits in anticipation of all the crops they could harvest.

"I planted eggplant and tomato and it's a good feeling," said fourth grader Aditya Rai.

Rai, 9, said he plans to check on the garden to ensure that the plants in the garden would soon grow crops.

"I'll take good care of it by making sure it gets enough water and sunlight," he said.

School principal Paulette Sablan expressed her appreciation on behalf of the students and the parent-teacher association for allowing the island's biggest public elementary school to take part in the Learning Garden program.

"We're really excited and we can't wait to harvest these crops and invite you guys in for a feast," she said.

Sablan said in an interview that the school's sizeable garden, which used to have banana and coconut trees as well as an assortment of flowering plants, had been idle for about eight years.

The revival of the garden, Sablan noted, will be more valuable since it's a student-initiated project.

"They have that responsibility of maintaining the crops and ensuring that the crops don't die, that they're healthy and big enough to be eaten. The end product is gathering all the crops and creating healthy meals out of it," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since Garapan Elementary School is situated in the business district and away from farmlands, Sablan said the Learning Garden will make the students experience farming at school.

"We're really grateful that they provided this opportunity to students," said Sablan.

HUD officials to visit Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are scheduled to visit the island next month.

Acting corporate director Jesse Palacios of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. said Thursday that the HUD officials will be flying to Saipan on a side trip as they are set to attend the Affordable Housing Symposium at the Hyatt Regency in Guam from June 19 to 20.

The Guam Affordable Housing Symposium gathers government leaders and housing planners, developers, realtors, engineers, and consultants to discuss housing issues and challenges as well as potential solutions to meet housing needs on the island.

The symposium, now on its fourth year, is sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in partnership with the Guam Housing Corp., Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, HUD, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Palacios disclosed that regional administrator Ophelia B. Basgal of HUD Region 9 and Honolulu Field Office Community Planning and Development director Mark A. Chandler will be on Saipan for a one-day visit on June 21.

Prior to that, CPD representative Marsha E. Ito of Honolulu Field Office will also do on-site monitoring from June 4 to 8 on several HUD programs administered by NMHC, including the Neighborhood Stabilization Program or NSP and the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program or HPRP.

NSP is a funding program that provides emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within the community.

HPRP aims to provide financial assistance and housing stabilization and relocation services to families and individuals in the CNMI who are homeless or are at risk of being homeless.

Palacios said HUD's Basgal and Chandler will meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and NMHC board members.

JGO sets three public hearings on initiative to shrink House

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has scheduled three more public hearings on a legislative initiative that would reduce the number of House of Representatives members from Saipan by half—from 18 to nine.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), JGO Committee chair, encourages members of the public to attend the hearings and to submit written comments three days prior to the public hearing.

On Monday, May 21, the public hearing will be held at Kagman High School cafeteria starting at 6pm.

On Tuesday, May 22, it will be held at Tanapag Elementary School cafeteria.

The following day, May 23, it will be at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

House Legislative Initiative 17-4 seeks to amend Article 2, Section 4 subsections (a), (b) and (c) of the CNMI Constitution to reduce the number of members in the House of Representatives from the Third Senatorial District from 18 to nine.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), author of HLI 17-4, said he hopes that the House and Senate will pass this legislation so that voters will be able to vote on it in the November elections.

"We should let the people decide on this," Palacios said, adding that a smaller House will not only save taxpayers' money at a time when the population has shrunk, but will also make the House more efficient. With the current 20 members in the House—including one each from Rota and Tinian—it takes a long time to pass controversial bills because there could sometimes be 20 different ideas and opinions, he said.

On Thursday last week, the JGO Committee held a public hearing at Dandan Elementary School with 11 residents showing up and only six testifying, expressing support for HLI 17-4. The previous night, only six people showed up at the Garapan Elementary School public hearing. Only two testified, and both supported the initiative.

Caregiver urges feds to look into labor situation

A caregiver urged federal authorities yesterday to investigate labor abuse allegedly being committed by some CNMI employers against their caregivers.

The caregiver, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told *Saipan Tribune* that some employers require them to work 24 hours a day with no days off.

Employers should let them leave the house at least on Sundays, said the caregiver, who has been working for her employer for more than 10 years now.

Some employers, she said, are not paying their caregivers' wages on time. Many caregivers are paid on a monthly basis instead of per hour.

The caregiver said they don't have medical insurance and some of them have to buy their own food although they are staying in their employers' house.

"Authorities should look into our situation and employers should realize that we are also human beings," the caregiver said.

She said she is aware of 20 caregivers who have the same complaints but are scared to speak out in open.

She said most of them used to be domestic helpers but became caregivers when the federalization of CNMI immigration took effect. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Stars-and-stripes theme for Rotary's July 14 fundraiser

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

It's going to be a Stars-and-Stripes theme for the annual Las Vegas Night fundraiser of the Rotary Club of Saipan.

Rotary secretary Laila Y. Boyer said Tuesday at the club's regular meeting that they changed the theme after moving the date of the event.

The Rotary Club of Saipan earlier announced that the Las Vegas Night will have a Cinco de Mayo theme as the event was originally slated for May 5 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

But to have enough time to prepare for the event, Rotary decided to put off the event to July 14 at Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall from 7pm to midnight.

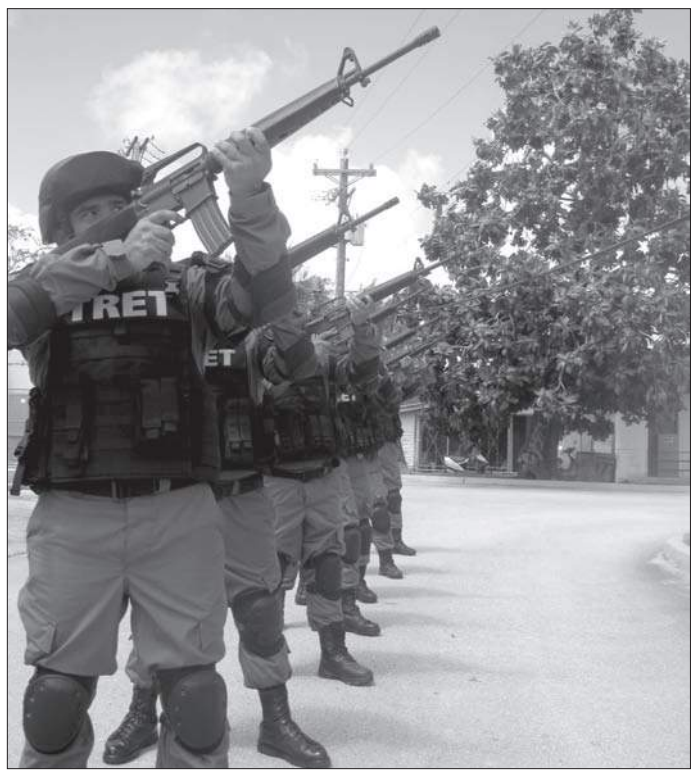
Las Vegas Night is Rotary's signature annual fundraising event that encourages the public to play poker, blackjack, and other gambling games for a good cause. Proceeds from the event help fund the organization's various projects that benefit the community.

This year's Las Vegas Night proceeds will be used to build a children's park in Kagman, the island's biggest village.

Boyer disclosed that a total of 5,000 tickets will be printed and sold.

Tickets can be purchased for $5 per ticket or $20 per booklet of five tickets for a chance to win in the grand prize of $10,000 or a brand new car and other exciting prizes during the raffle draw.

To buy tickets or for more information, email saipanrotary@gmail.com.



PEACE MEMORIAL FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the Department of Public Safety's Tactical Response Enforcement Team render a 21-gun salute for the 14 DPS officers and firefighters who lost their lives or were injured or disabled in the line of duty, at a Peace Memorial Day ceremony at DPS compound in Susupe on Tuesday.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMC to broadcast 2012 graduation online

The Northern Marianas College will be making available a live broadcast of the 32nd Commencement Exercise on the Internet at http://www.ustream.tv/channel/nmc-commencement-2012 that will begin at 4pm on Saturday, May 19, 2012. The event will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 4pm at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. ***(PR)***

Volunteers needed to paint Tanapag center

The Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw, in partnership with the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and the Tanapag Parish Council, is looking for volunteers to help paint the Tanapag Community Center (across the Tanapag Church) today, May 19, 2012, from 8am to 4pm. Paints and brushes will be provided, but you may bring your own paint brush. Lunch will also be provided. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

29th Agricultural Fair coming up

The Saipan Agricultural Fair Association is inviting the public to the 29th Agricultural Fair scheduled for Saturday, May 26, 2012, at the Sabalu Market Grounds. There will also be a proclamation signing on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 9am at the Sabalu Market Grounds, designating the week of May 20 to 26 as "Simanan Lanchero." ***(PR)***

Chamber to host currency training

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a Credit Card and Currency Training session, presented by U.S. Secret Service trainers, on June 4, 2012, at 2pm.

As a result of a number of incidents recently where counterfeit currency has been seized in Guam and on Saipan, the U.S. Secret Service will be visiting Saipan to conduct a number of sessions for one day only, June 4, 2012.

SCC will notify all SCC members of the location for the training sessions as we approach June 4. At this time, the training sessions would be made available to Chamber members at no cost. There would be a nominal attendance fee for non-members. ***(SCC)***

Sr. Remedios registration schedule

The Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center announces the registration for the next school year 2012-2013 beginning on April 2 to May 31. From April 2 to May 31 the registration fee is $75. After May 31, the registration fee is $100. For more information contact the school at 234-6247; Fax: 235-1411; Email: srrecdc@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

FOA membership meeting

The Friends of the Arts will have its final membership meeting of the year at the Marianas Resort at its outdoor La Stella Restaurant on Tuesday evening, May 22, beginning at 6:30pm. Enjoy a delicious menu and great entertainment provided by FOA and the award-winning MHS Glee Club with more performers to be added.

The cost of the meal for members and their families will be $15 for adults and young adults 12 and above, $8 for youngsters 5 up to 11, and no cost for the little ones 4 and younger. As the cost of the meal is subsidized by FOA, the cost of the meal for non-members will be $20. Send an email to Gibson to confirm your attendance. ***(FOA)***

Discounted rates offered for Zumba class at NMC

The Northern Marianas College through the Community Development Institute is offering discounted rates for individuals who wish to take a short-term Zumba course that begins today, May 18, 2012.

The fee for the Zumba course has been reduced to $45 per individual if participants refer one individual to register for the course, which equates to $5 per class session. This discount will also be given to the individuals referred. However, the course fee is $90 for those who do not refer others to take the course.

The Zumba course will continue every Monday and Friday until the last day on June 15, 2012. The schedule is 5pm to 6pm at the NMC As Terlaje campus. To register, or for information about these courses, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 ext. 1005/1010/1019 or e-mail Orrin Pharmin at orrinp@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-GOV-077

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM ANALYSIS

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Consultants to provide a review of the current healthcare system of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Commonwealth") in comparison to identified standards and the development of plan to correct any identified deficiencies.

The Commonwealth seeks the services of a firm with extensive background in the evaluation of small community healthcare systems for efficiency and effectiveness in meeting community needs. Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

35 points - recent experience of firm and assigned personnel in evaluation of hospital operation according to identified industry benchmarks
35 points - structure of proposed study
30 points - cost of study and timetable

A critical element that must be addressed in the study structure is the balancing of services and associated revenues. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on May 21, 2012 (ChST) at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). All questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 25, 2012 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

Selected contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked RFP12-GOV-077 Healthcare System Analysis and include an original and four copies and must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 1, 2012 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

Saipan, Tinian ceremonies to mark Memorial Day

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will join the rest of the nation in observing Memorial Day on May 28, with separate ceremonies to be held on Saipan and Tinian that day.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed Thursday morning a proclamation declaring May 21 to 28 Memorial Week, to honor those who have paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom.

"Members of the U.S. Armed Forces have placed our nation's safety

before their own for generations. From the first shots fired at Lexington and Concord to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, these brave patriots have taken on great risks to keep us safe, and they have served with honor and distinction. All Americans who have enjoyed the blessings of peace and liberty remain in their debt," Inos said in his proclamation.

He called on the CNMI to observe Memorial Week as a time "of prayer for permanent peace and pay tribute to our fallen veterans for their unselfish, dedicated service in defending our country."

The 2012 Memorial Day ceremonies on May 28 will be held at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi on Saipan at 9am. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will be delivering the welcoming remarks.

Capt. John Heckman, Joint Region Marianas Regional Engineer and Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, will be the keynote speaker.

This year, Tinian will also have special Memorial Day ceremonies.

Don Farrell, CNMI historian and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz's point man on military affairs, said Thursday that the Memorial Day ceremonies will be held at Runway Bravo on North Field on Tinian on May 28.

It will be held in conjunction with Marine Air Group-12, the Tinian Veterans Association, Tinian JROTC, Tinian Department of Public Safety, and the public. Some 120 Marines from MAG-12 out of Japan are now on Tinian for Exercise Geiger Fury, and some 100 more will be arriving in a few days.

Farrell said a flyover of four F-18 Hornets is expected at about 11:15am on May 28.

The Tinian mayor is inviting the public to join the ceremonies.

NEW FENCE CLARISSA V. DAVID

A worker is seen toiling by the Garapan Elementary School signage yesterday. The biggest public elementary school on island is getting a new concrete fence alongside its main entrance and on the Beach Road side of the school campus. The $115,900-project is funded by CIP monies.

CUC sets power outage today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday that additional areas are scheduled for power interruption today, May 19, 2012, from 5:30am to 8:30am.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow CUC's power crew to replace the burnt primary power pole in Koblerville across the St. Jude Church.

CUC line crews will also be clearing vegetations on the de-energized primary lines in the areas near the ABCD store in Koblerville.

Areas affected include As Lito/Chalan Msgr. Martinze (Mason PI., Tinanom PI., Sulon PI., Simiya PI., Dokko PI., Kostat Dr., Tufok PI., Bukayu Ln., Tika Ln., Halle Pl., Bagasu Ln., Kannuon Pl., Patnitos Ln., Lana Dr., Daddek Ln., Atool Pl., Faya Ln.) to Koblerville (Mobil gas station).

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. ***(CUC)***

CNMI

From Page 1

cial Security but this could also impact private firm ASC Trust Corp., the third-party administrator of the defined contribution program.

All these scenarios and options were also premised on the withdrawal or dismissal of the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing. The Fitial administration, the Senate, the Commonwealth Retirees Association and the U.S. Trustee, among other things, want the bankruptcy filing withdrawn.

Inos, now in charge of Retirement Fund recovery issues, was later joined by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in yesterday's meeting with 14 of 20 members of the House of Representatives and one senator, along with counsels.

The almost two-hour closed-door meeting was the first between the Fitial administration and the House since the Fund filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the first public pension agency on U.S. soil to seek such protection.

Lawmakers said the Fitial administration will have another teleconference with U.S. Social Security officials on Tuesday. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, the administration may finally make a decision whether the terms presented by the other party is acceptable and affordable.

If the CNMI government accepts this, it has to pay five years of contributions to the U.S. Social Security. While employee contributions may involve just transferring money from the Fund to Social Security, the employer contribution may be more problematic. The government has been behind in its payments of employer contribution to the Fund.

"The good thing about this, that's automatic five years of vested service in Social Security…You need 10 years of vested service before you can benefit from the system," said Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said he personally favors moving back to U.S. Social Security but the specific terms have yet to be known "and if we can pay what needs to be paid."

Requests to Legislature

Inos asked lawmakers to withdraw HB 17-226 and to adopt a joint resolution supporting the CNMI's transition into the U.S. Social Security system.

Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), author of HB 17-226, said he will be recalling his bill next week.

Yumul said the Fitial administration sees HB 17-226 as a hindrance to plans and scenarios presented.

"But it could also be amended," he added.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said recalling HB 17-226 would disappoint many active members who have been hoping to get 50 percent of their contribution and roll over the rest to the defined contribution plan.

H.B. 17-226, which has been under review by the governor since mid-April, allows non-retired members of the Fund's defined benefit plan to withdraw up to 50 percent of their contributions regardless of years of service and without penalty or the need for them to quit their jobs. Under the bill, the rest of the employee contributions to the Fund will be rolled over to the defined contribution plan.

Inos also told lawmakers that if the CNMI government chooses to keep the Fund alive, benefits paid to members should be cut by 50 percent.

Palacios acknowledges that the CNMI's pension system is one of the most luxurious and most generous on U.S. soil.

The average government pension in the CNMI is $20,000 a year. In the U.S., it is only $10,000, based on Inos' presentation to lawmakers.

Palacios said a retired judge in Hawaii, for example, gets less than $40,000 a year. In the CNMI, judges and justices receive $80,000 to over $100,000 a year.

Palacios said he disagrees with a "uniform 50 percent cut in benefits."

"I'm hoping that they would start the 50 percent cut among those getting pension of $50,000 to over $100,000 a year. Those who are receiving less than $20,000 a year should not receive cuts. It will be too difficult for them to receive cuts when they're already receiving a little," said Palacios.

Some members also suggested that the Fund should be placed under the Department of Finance.

The Fitial administration is expected to meet with retirees and active members to share its plans and scenarios related to the Fund.

Yumul said had the Fund and the entire government heeded Judge Kenneth Govendo's recommendations, the Fund wouldn't have spent $475 an hour on bankruptcy lawyers and other expenses.

"We're back to what Judge Govendo has been saying all along," he said.

ECLIPSE

From Page 1

Weather permitting, millions of early risers in southern China, northern Taiwan and southeast Japan will be able to catch the ring eclipse. Then it creeps across the Pacific with the western U.S. viewing the tail end.

The late day sun will transform into a glowing ring in southwest Oregon, Northern California, central Nevada, southern Utah, northern Arizona and New Mexico and finally the Texas Panhandle where it will occur at sunset on Sunday. For 3 1/2 hours, the eclipse follows an 8,500-mile path. Viewing, from beginning to end, lasts about two hours. The ring phenomenon lasts as long as 5 minutes depending on location.

Outside this narrow band, parts of the West, Midwest and South—and portions of Canada and Mexico—will be treated to a partial eclipse. The Eastern Seaboard will be shut out, but people can log online to sites such as the Slooh Space Camera, which plans to broadcast the event live.

A ring eclipse—technically called an annular solar eclipse—is not as dramatic as a total eclipse, when the disk of the sun is entirely blocked by the moon. As in a total solar eclipse, the moon crosses in front of the sun, but the moon is too far from Earth and appears too small in the sky to blot out the sun completely.

"A bright ring around the sun at mid-eclipse is still pretty cool," Geoff Chester of the U.S. Naval Observatory said in an email.

Asia is abuzz over the event. In Japan, cable cars will run early to give tourists an unobstructed view from the mountains. Ferries will make special trips so that others can enjoy the scene offshore. The Taipei Astronomical Museum will open its doors at dawn while Hong Kong's Space Museum will set up solar-filtered telescopes outside its building on the Kowloon waterfront.

The last time this type of eclipse was seen in the U.S. was in 1994. This year's solar show offers ringside seats at 33 national parks along the eclipse path including the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon. A partial eclipse can be viewed from another 125 national parks.

For die-hard sky gazers, six U.S. locations will see the moon cover about 95 percent of the sun's diameter. They include the Petroglyph National Monument, Redwoods National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Zion National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Wherever you are, do not look directly at the eclipsed sun or you can get a serious eye injury. Wear specially made protective glasses that can be bought online or create your own contraption by punching a small pinhole in a cardboard box.

If you buy special eyewear, you can recycle it. Two weeks later, Venus will crawl across the face of the sun—a rare occurrence known as the "transit of Venus" that will also require viewers to take precaution.

Veteran eclipse chaser Jay Pasachoff has traveled to remote corners of the globe to see the moon take a bite of the sun. This time, the Williams College astronomer will travel to New Mexico with his students to collect data.

Sunday's event will be his 14th ring eclipse and 55th solar eclipse overall. So what does someone who has seen it all look forward to?

Seeing "the symmetry of a ring of sunlight around the dark silhouette of the moon," Pasachoff said in an email.

The next ring eclipse won't be visible in the U.S. for more than a decade—October 2023.

GAS

From Page 1

mirror each other's price changes, so it is expected that Shell will follow suit.

Ramon Lisua, 48, said he's relieved to see another 10-cent decrease so that his family can stretch its gas budget for their old pickup truck. Every workday, he and his wife have to drive from Kagman 3 where they live to Lower Base, Garapan, As Terlaje and back to Kagman 3 because of the separate locations of the couple's offices and their children's schools.

"So the $20 gas we're putting in now, that's only good for two days. The 10-cent decrease could give us a few more miles," Lisua told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at a Mobil service station on Beach Road-Garapan yesterday afternoon.

Efren Maralit, 59, was a bit skeptical when asked how he feels about the 10-cent drop in pump price, saying gas prices would pick up in the summer.

"So yes, maybe they brought it down to total 20 cents in the last two weeks but they'd increase it to 25 cents later," Maralit said as he was buying $6 gas. He said bringing back regular gas on Saipan to $4 would be ideal.

"It should always be much lower than minimum wage," he added.

The CNMI's minimum wage is $5.05 an hour.

Other motorists said that while Saipan prices have dropped, those same prices and the prices on Rota and Tinian remain the highest on U.S. soil.

Mobil earlier said that prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

By factoring in the two price reductions since May 8, Saipan motorists have been paying 25 cents more for gas since the start of the year.

Mobil and Shell do not issue advance notices for any gas price change.

MAG-12 Marines work with Tinian residents for flight operations

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN—While Tinian offers superb aviation ground support training in an unimproved environment during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012, the U.S. Marines are also taking full advantage of the opportunity to work side by side with their civilian counterparts. Cooperative teamwork facilitates coordination for safe airfield operations, but also results in positive relationships that will endure for future exercises here.

Lance Cpl. Bryan K. Costorf of Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 aircraft rescue firefighter dispatcher, and Raena P. Cing, Tinian airport radio service operator, are a perfect example of effective teamwork.

Cing is responsible for all of the airfield operations for Tinian's West Field. Her duties include being the primary line of communication between the aircraft and ground control, radio base line communications, and the hourly weather observer and reporter as well as several other positions.

"I do it all," said Cing. "I am glad the Marines are here. This is a whole new experience for me."

Cing and Castorf have been working side by side in the radio communications center to deconflict any differences between civilian and Marine Corps airfield operation requirements.

"It has been great learning what Marines do," said Cing. "They tend to speak in a language all their own. One Marine told me it was called 'Marine Jargon.' I think I'm picking up on it pretty quick."

The Marines seem to be having a great new experience as well. From the moment the Marines have arrived, whether by sea or air, the people of Tinian have looked upon them with awe. People here are curious about the activities of the Marines who are repairing the historical airfield that played a pivotal role in bringing an end to World War II. Many of the local people have gone out of their way to make the Marines feel welcome, bringing them gifts such as coffee, watermelons, mangos, and much more.

"It has been really good to experience the culture," said Costorf. "I did not think it would be this nice here, nor did I anticipate the people would be as friendly and as welcoming as they have been."

Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 has allowed both the people of Tinian and the Marines of MAG-12, MWSS-171 to come together and resurrect the historical bonds that bind them. Everyone hopes there will be more training opportunities on Tinian in the future, further strengthening the professional cooperation and personal friendships that have so quickly developed here.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

Lance Cpl. Bryn K. Castorf, Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, aircraft rescue firefighter dispatcher, and Raena P. Cing, flight service radio operator at Tinian international airport, gaze on the flight line from the dispatcher center May 16 during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. The two partnered up to ensure civilian and military airfield operations ran smoothly.

How can you arrest a jet?

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN—U.S. Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, expeditionary airfield technicians, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force have begun surveying the land around Tinian's West Field airfield during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 on May 16.

The technicians survey the land in order to properly place the emergency arresting gear.

"In order for us to be able to land jets at this airfield we must have the arresting set in place properly," said Lance Cpl. Devin J. Ward, MAG-12,MWSS-171, expeditionary airfield technician. "If an engine goes out or a jet needs to make an emergency landing then they have to drop there hook and latch on to the arresting gear so they can slow down and ensure that the plane will not take off again."

The arresting gear is counterweighted to the ground by large metal stakes driven deeply into the earth in a spider web fashion in order to ensure maximum weight distribution.

In order to operate the airfield properly and safely the arresting gear must be emplaced correctly and firmly.

"If the arresting gear is not firmly attached to the ground then when a plane tries to hook up, the speed and weight of the jet could completely uproot the arresting gear," said Lance Cpl. Dakota J. Clark MAG-12, MWSS-171 expeditionary airfield technician. "It is a very delicate process. If it isn't done right the first time then there could be a very destructive and costly consequence."

The arresting gear is an absolute necessity before planes can land on the airfields of Tinian.

"No arresting gear, no planes," said Ward. "We have to be able to ensure that the planes can land safely under any circumstance."

The actions and progression of MWSS-171, MAG-12 has ensured the operations capabilities of the Tinian airfields during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 will be able to perform to its fullest potential though out the entirety of the exercise.

Tinian residents offer sales to Marines

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

TINIAN—U.S. Marines with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, that are participating in Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 received a surprise from the local Tinian vendors on May 17, 2012.

The merchants gathered outside the gates of the Marines' forward operating base at Tinian's North Field. From there they proceeded to sell the Marines such items as soap, hand sanitizer, various snacks, calling cards, fresh coconuts, and much more.

The Marines even received watermelon free of charge from the vendors as an appreciation gift courtesy of the Tinian people.

"We are proud to have the Marines here," said Deborah Fleming, one of several local vendors outside of the FOB. "This is real history in the making. The people of Tinian have been waiting for the Marines to return on a large scale basis for over 30 years."

The Marines were impressed by the compassion shown to them by the vendors and deeply grateful for their generous praises and show of support.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

A Marine with Marine Aircraft Group 12, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, 3rd Marine Expeditionary grabs himself a piece of watermelon brought to the Marines by local vendors May 17 during Exercise Geiger Fury 2012. The watermelon was free of charge and provided by the people of Tinian as a welcoming present.

"It was nice having a little piece of home and comfort come out here," said Pfc. Jerry R. Kaiser, MAG-12, MWSS-171 heavy equipment operator. "These people have taken time out of their day just to come out here and show their support. The feeling of just being able to buy a Gatorade or even toothpaste is an amazing thing, you just have to be here to understand."

According to Fleming, the people of Tinian are true patriots. Fleming has sons in the U.S. Army and, like many other Tinian residents who have loved ones serving in the U.S. armed forces, she feels a strong sense of compassion for all those serving in the military.

Thanks to Exercise Geiger Fury 2012 the MAG-12, MWSS 171 Marines have the chance to experience the island culture of the Northern Marianas, an experience that will not soon be forgotten when the Marines return home.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 118

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Is Europe catching?

Europe is coming to Chicago in the next few days and the great temptation is to set up a quarantine room at O'Hare International Airport. Our visitors have a bad case of the financial flu. We can only hope it's not catching.

Greece could collapse in a matter of weeks when its banking system runs out of funds. The tiny Aegean nation's economic illness could spread to the sickly and much larger economies of Italy and Spain.

That would be disastrous for Europeans and a serious problem for Americans. U.S. economic growth depends on the success of the 27-nation European Union, which, taken together, is America's biggest trading partner. Eleven of those 27 countries have slipped back into recession.

Many of them would like to stimulate their way out of recession with government spending. But practically every nation in Europe's southern tier has piled up way too much debt and cannot afford to keep borrowing. Germany, the strongest economy, has rightly forced austerity measures on its free-spending neighbors as a condition of bailouts.

Greece agreed to slash public spending, rewrite rigid labor rules that throttle its private sector and pay off part of its debt over time. In exchange, its banks got a cash infusion and its creditors agreed to write off more than half its debt.

In the wake of the deal, though, unemployment has gotten worse and money has become more scarce. The Greek economy has shrunk for five consecutive years, with no end in sight.

Enraged Greeks have rebelled, turning against their two major political parties in favor of the far right and far left. The country will be up for grabs in June 17 elections. If a new government rejects austerity and renounces its debt, Greece probably will be forced out of the eurozone, the common currency union.

Under the most likely scenario, the European Central Bank would stop funding its banks. To keep the doors open, Greece would have to print its own currency, which would be extraordinarily weak because it wouldn't be backed by wealthier European nations.

Europeans already are adjusting to the idea of losing Greece. The slow-moving euro bureaucracy has acted like a circuit breaker, keeping Greece from a sudden collapse. With time to prepare, systemic risk has been reduced. Governments have made contingency plans and banks have limited their exposure. Financial firewalls are in place to keep a Greek collapse from spreading to Italy, Spain and other vulnerable countries like Portugal and Ireland.

Those firewalls, though, remain a work in progress. The economic future of Europe will be a hot topic when G-8 leaders meet this week at Camp David. Europe really has no choice but to work off its huge debt over time, though that will hamper economic growth. Its monetary union may wind up losing one or more members. It faces years of slow growth or no growth ... or worse.

Europe, welcome to Chicago. Please try not to sneeze.

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IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WITH ALL THE TABLOIDS... BUT NOW I'M DEALING WITH MOTHERS WHO BREASTFEED OLDER KIDS AND THE 'FIRST GAY PRESIDENT.'
TIME
Newsweek
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA

Americans Elect meets reality

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

What happens if you start a political party and nobody comes? Six months ago, a newfangled third party burst onto the scene, full of hope and promise. It was called Americans Elect, and it sought to give voters a choice many said they were looking for: "centrist" candidates who could break the partisan gridlock paralyzing Washington.

In its founders' heads danced visions of middle-of-the-road candidates who could transform American politics: Hillary Rodham Clinton, Colin Powell, Michael Bloomberg, Jon Huntsman Jr. Wealthy donors invested millions in a fancy website for an Internet primary, signed up 420,000 would-be "delegates" and got on the ballot in 29 states. Newspaper columnists, including me, pondered what effect it might have on the election.

Then the grand idea collided with reality.

Americans Elect's website is still humming, and its lawyers are still working to get the party on the ballot in all 50 states. But it's missing two essentials: a viable candidate and enthusiastic voters.

In an embarrassing setback, not enough voters registered support for any of the fantasy candidates to meet the threshold for nomination. The top vote-getter was Republican candidate Ron Paul, but he says he isn't interested in a third-party run. Among the few public figures who were willing to play, the top vote-getter was former Louisiana Gov. Buddy Roemer, a Democrat turned Republican; he won the online support of exactly 6,293 people, short of the 10,000 he needed.

It turns out you can't get many voters excited about a party built by anonymous donors around an abstract concept. Centrist third parties have done respectably in American presidential elections when they were led by charismatic figures; Theodore Roosevelt won 27 percent of the vote in 1912, and H. Ross Perot won 19 percent in 1992. But without a charismatic leader, it's hard to rally people around the banner of moderation.

So, on Thursday, Americans Elect announced that it won't be running a candidate this year at all—but said it still hopes to find a way to get independent figures onto the ballot in future years.

Why couldn't Americans Elect land a better-known candidate? It tried. Darry Sragow, a canny Democratic campaign strategist from Los Angeles, led a nationwide talent search to persuade top-tier names to jump in. Sragow says he talked with about 50 current and former officeholders, including incumbent senators and governors, but nobody was willing to take the chance.

"Everyone agreed that the system is broken," Sragow said. "The problem is that their risk aversion was too high. There's a fear of retribution if you break with your party."

Retribution? Sure. Not like in Syria, where dissidents are shot, or Russia, where they're merely jailed. But in Washington, a failed third-party presidential candidate could become a pariah—no Cabinet job, no ambassadorship, no consulting clients, no seats on corporate boards.

Sragow wouldn't identify any of the individuals he talked with. But others in the effort said a bid to enlist Bloomberg failed because the New York mayor considered the race unwinnable and didn't want to spend time on a quixotic gesture. Several corporate CEOs expressed interest but backed out once they realized the scrutiny they would undergo as presidential candidates.

So Americans Elect turned out to be a failure—this time. It had defects; its donors' insistence on keeping their contributions secret made voters and potential candidates uneasy. But that doesn't mean it was a bad idea. If Rick Santorum was winning the GOP nomination instead of Mitt Romney, a third party might look plenty viable.

And it still may have life left in it. The most useful role for a centrist third party in American politics would be in Senate and House races, where the two major parties have proved perfectly capable of nominating second-rate partisans. Voters in Indiana might welcome a second chance to vote for Sen. Richard Lugar, who lost the GOP primary in part because the "tea party" considered him too moderate. In 2010, Nevada voters yearned for a third choice beyond the uninspiring Sen. Harry Reid and the tea party's mercurial Sharron Angle. In 2014, Americans Elect might be just the entity to facilitate such choices.

It's not often remembered, but Toyota's first model in the United States, the 1957 Toyopet Crown, was an underpowered failure. Apple's first try at a tablet computer, the Newton, ended up on the scrap heap.

If Americans Elect can get on the ballot and stay there, it could still turn out to be a step toward rebuilding a vital center in Congress. Just not this year.

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An Egyptian presidential candidate worth watching

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

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CAIRO—In this presidential campaign headquarters, in a second-floor apartment in the Cairo neighborhood of Garden City, young female volunteers in full veil work alongside women in colorful headscarfs and those with flowing, uncovered hair. All work side by side with young men as they scan video clips on their computers.

This may seem odd for the office of an Islamist candidate in the May 23-24 elections. But it symbolizes the appeal of the one candidate who seems capable of bridging the deepening divide between secular and devout Egyptians. His is the campaign I'm most interested in.

At a time when Arab upheavals are pushing one country after another toward Islamist rule, the independent and grandfatherly physician Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh wants to show that an Islamist president can be tolerant and inclusive.

Many non-Islamists are skeptical. But Aboul Fotouh's appeal for Egyptian unity—across ideology and sect—has won endorsement by prominent liberals, including the face of the Tahrir Square revolution, Google executive Wael Ghonim. To the astonishment of many, he has also won the backing of the ultraconservative, Salafist Nour Party.

His candidacy is a long shot, although he's one of four frontrunners. He's short of funds. (He says he will accept only Egyptian donations, not Saudi or Gulf money.) But he has attracted tens of thousands of volunteers, and his big-tent approach makes him the most fascinating candidate to follow.

If populous Egypt adopts a "moderate" Islamist path—somewhat along the lines of tiny Tunisia or Turkey—it could provide some balance for the region. And it could show how democracy and Islam can find a way to coexist.

Of course, the skeptics note that until last year Aboul Fotouh was a leader of the intensely disciplined Muslim Brotherhood; in 2011, the Brotherhood expelled him.

Long banned from politics under the regime of Hosni Mubarak, the Brotherhood is now running its own candidate, Mohammed Morsi, via its new political-front group, the Freedom and Justice Party.

The Brotherhood's extensive grassroots organization, based on a network of social-service operations, won it nearly half the seats in parliament; this organization gives Morsi a good chance to beat Aboul Fotouh, along with the two leading secular candidates, former Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq and ex-Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

Aboul Fotouh's supporters include liberals who fear that the Brotherhood is drunk on power; they say Aboul Fotouh tried for years to reform the Brotherhood from within. "The reason he has so much credibility among liberals," says the noted human-rights campaigner Hossam Bahgat, "is that his discourse and program are unique—in emphasizing we must come together. I think he is genuine about his commitment to civil liberties."

And, I hear over and over from his backers, the doctor listens to what people have to say.

As I visit Aboul Fotouh's modest headquarters, his staff talk in similar language about his openness to dialogue. One close political adviser is female, a Marxist, and a political science professor at the American University of Cairo.

His media adviser, Ali el-Bahnasawy, a journalist and self-styled liberal, recalled how Aboul Fotouh visited Nobel Prize-winning author Naguib Mahfouz, when "no one would dare" after hard-line Islamists had tried to kill the writer.

Aboul Fotouh also opposed the Brotherhood's 2007 attempt to ban women from running for president and to establish a clerical body that would rule on whether parliamentary laws were in accord with sharia.

Egyptian analysts say the Nour Party backed Aboul Fotouh in part because of rivalry with the Muslim Brotherhood. But, says Nour leader Ashaf Sabet Saad Eldin, now deputy speaker of parliament: "The Nour Party wanted a candidate with support across Egypt because we really worried Egyptian society would split with very negative consequences."

In other words, the ultraorthodox Salafis are also searching for a unifier. Is it possible that Aboul Fotouh can really unify an Egypt split by religion, ideology, and class?

Here is where we come to the hard part. Liberal Egyptian friends tell me they are shifting away from Aboul Fotouh because they feel he is waffling on his old, tolerant positions. They say he shifted his stance on women's rights, and the role of sharia law, in a historic presidential debate last week.

When I interviewed the doctor in November, he stressed the rights of women, noting that his wife and two of his daughters are doctors—the third is a dentist.

He insisted the controversial Article Two of Egypt's constitution—which says Egyptian laws must be in accord with "the principles of sharia"—was "fine" and didn't need changing. Salafis want to make that article more specific.

Aboul Fotouh also told me that "some ideas of Salafis worry me, but a better way to engage them is to involve them in society so gradually they will be more tolerant."

He added: "We hope to lead the Islamic world toward more tolerance." He added, "We'll not go toward Salafism, Wahabism (a reference to the untraconservative Saudi brand of Islam)."

The doctor's positions remain the same, his media adviser insists. All I can say for certain is that Aboul Fotouh's candidacy sums up what Egypt needs so badly: a leadership that embraces Muslims, Copts, rich, and poor, and tries to bring them together. Whether he will have the chance to prove he is that leader is up to Egypt's voters to decide.

In life and economics, a little friction can smooth things out

By DANIEL AKST
NEWSDAY

By DANIEL AKST
Newsday

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What do college applications, financial derivatives and Kentucky fried chicken all have in common?

Friction. Or more accurately, the lack thereof, which is what makes all three so dangerous. A little friction, it turns out, can be a very useful thing.

Take applying to college. In my day, you got yourself a raccoon coat, sent out half a dozen applications and called it a day. Preparing each application was laborious; you had to send away for them, and some were dauntingly elaborate.

But today, thanks in part to innovations such as the Common Application, which makes it easy to apply to many schools at once via the Internet, students apply to lots more places. This generates a lot of needless competition and anxiety. Colleges now get 85 percent of their applications online.

The digital revolution has been the death of friction in other arenas, too. It has facilitated all sorts of financial machinations, such as the complex derivatives (bets on the price of some underlying asset) that played a role in the economic crisis of 2008. It would have been difficult for derivatives to flower in such lethal variety and profusion without networked computers. Digitization has also enabled rapid-fire trading on the stock market, and made it easier for capital to flee one part of the world for another almost instantly. Things that were once difficult have become a bit too easy.

Some people thought such innovations would reduce risk, but instead the financial world seems to have become more volatile. Need I mention the way a single European currency reduced financial friction among nations on the continent? Capital flowed all too easily to Greece, Italy and other countries now in financial trouble. Trade probably got a boost, but too often it was in just one direction: from northern countries to southern ones. A little more friction and Europe might not be in this mess.

Then there's the matter of fried chicken. Once upon a time you had to go and catch your food. Later you could buy a bird, but you still had to pluck it, butcher it, bread it, fry it and then clean up the mess. Now we just stop at a fast-food joint on the way home, our consumption lubricated all too effectively by technology and affluence. The lack of friction is helping make us fat.

Credit cards and the end of blue laws that closed most stores on Sundays have had the same friction-reducing effect. They are examples of ways that making our lives easier has also made them harder. If you had to depend on cash, a streetcar and the limited shopping hours that were available in decades past, you'd spend less.

Some thoughtful people think society actually needs to add a little strategic friction. Several economists have proposed a small tax on financial transactions; one, Edgar Feige, has even suggested an ingeniously simple version that would replace the U.S. income tax. The big impact would be on the financial doings of banks and securities traders, making the tax quite progressive.

But what's interesting here is the idea that friction can be our friend. A well-known academic article argued for a financial-transactions tax to dampen exchange-rate instability between currencies; it was called "Two Cases for Sand in the Wheels of International Finance."

Adding sand to the wheels of the college admissions frenzy might also make sense. Why not limit students to half a dozen applications each, and spare everyone some of the craziness associated with the project, now that a quarter of students submit seven or more? Or, if necessary, just require applications to be prepared by hand, like in the old days. When lubricants weren't nearly so well developed.

The Left's favorite bad statistic

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Archimedes didn't say, "Give me a bad statistic, and I will move the Earth." But that was only because the ancient Greek mathematician wasn't familiar with the ways of Washington.

An entire movement has grown up around the factoid that American women make about 80 percent of the pay of men. It is a reliable talking point of Democrats who insist the country is racked by a "War on Women." A raft of proposed legislation purports to remedy the discrimination exposed by the damning number.

MSNBC host Rachel Maddow recently wielded the statistic on "Meet the Press," and reacted with shocked disbelief that anyone would question such a cold, hard fact, as if it were as incontestable as the circumference of the Earth.

Never mind that the figure is crude and misleading. The latest data from the Labor Department say that women made 82.2 percent of what men made in the first quarter of 2012. That's a considerable gap, but comparing all women versus all men is not particularly telling when all sorts of variables—occupation, levels of experience, education, hours worked—are in play.

"Women gravitate," Carrie Lukas of the Independent Women's Forum writes, "toward jobs with fewer risks, more comfortable conditions, regular hours, more personal fulfillment and greater flexibility. Simply put, many women—not all, but enough to have a big impact on statistics—trade higher pay for other desirable job characteristics."

The Institute for Women's Policy Research, a feminist outfit obsessed with the wage gap, published a study noting that twice as many women as men work in jobs with median earnings below the federal poverty line for a family of four. Unless all these women—some 5.5 million—were coerced into these positions, this fact alone shows how occupational choice influences the wage gap.

The slogan that invariably accompanies the 80 percent statistic is "equal pay for equal work." But men and women get paid *differently for different work*. Warren Farrell points out in his book *Why Men Earn More* that the 25 worst jobs in terms of stress and physical demands—occupations like sheet-metal worker and firefighter—are more than 90 percent male. In general, men who are employed full time work more hours a day than women employed full time (8.2 hours compared with 7.8, according to the Labor Department), and women are much more likely to interrupt their careers to have children, affecting their earning power over time.

With women now earn about 60 percent of bachelor's and master's degrees, and reaching parity with men in medical and law schools. It stands to reason that the wage gap will narrow, even if it doesn't disappear.

A study by a research organization called Reach Advisors shows that single women in their 20s make 105 percent of single men in their 20s in urban areas, and 120 percent "in certain cities with a heavily knowledge-driven employment base." These women must not realize that they will never make their way in the workplace without Congress somehow acting to ensure "equal pay."

In the end, the reality doesn't matter. A bad statistic never dies.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

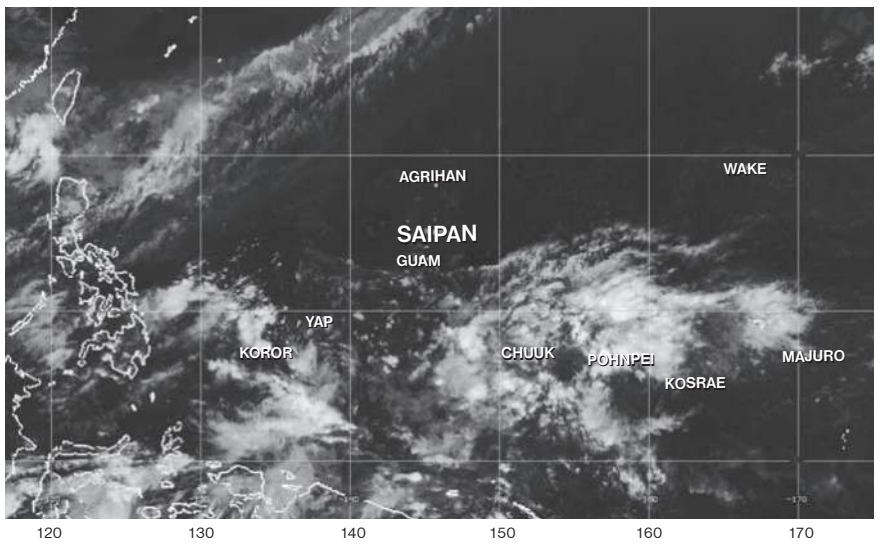
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼50
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼50
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲93	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲63	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼73
New York	Sunny	▲70	▼52
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Paris	Rain	▲64	▼52
Pusan	Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼59
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼39
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼55
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼60
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A late-season cold front extends southwestward from 25N138E to beyond 20N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and upto 300 miles northwest of the front. A monsoon trough runs southeastward across 7N130E through a circulation centered southeast of Koror at 5N138E to end at EQ147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Koror are west of a line from 12N133E to 8N135E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Yap and southeast of Koror are south of a line from 2N130E to 8N140E. Another circulation is centered near 5N147E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Chuuk state between the equator and 12N from 145E to 155E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Pohnpei between 6N and 12N from 155E to 162E. Another disturbance south of Pohnpei is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 4N157E to 2N160E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers across Kwajalein atoll between 8N and 12N from 166E to 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
6:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:16 AM	5:15 PM
Sunday	4:58 AM	6:05 PM
Monday	5:43 AM	6:55 PM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	7:44 PM
Wednesday	7:18 AM	8:33 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 5

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:50am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	4:35pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 5 via ROP
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:05am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5076	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; UA: United; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat)
Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sundays at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Thursdays at 6:30pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 19, 2000

AGO asks court to stop lawyer from practicing in CNMI
The Attorney General's Office yesterday asked the Superior Court to stop lawyer Bruce Jorgensen from engaging in what it said unauthorized practice of law in the Commonwealth. Mr. Jorgensen is not a member of the CNMI Bar Association, but he is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. In a motion for preliminary injunction, Assistant Attorney General David Sosebee said allowing Mr. Jorgensen to continuously practice law in the Commonwealth during his stay on the island will result in immediate and irreparable harm to the Commonwealth and its citizens.

PSS receives website funds
The U.S. National Center of Education Statistics this week issued a $20,000 check to the Public School System for the enhancement of its recruitment and information website meant to lure more teachers into exploring career opportunities in the CNMI. The existing PSS website is currently lacking data to give non-CNMI residents a clear picture of the state of the local public school system. CNMI and another school in California are only two among 56 states and insular areas that have been granted the web development contract for two consecutive years.

May 19, 2003

CNMI Medicaid gets $348K refund
The CNMI Medicaid program will get a refund of $348,000 from Queens Medical Center following findings that the Honolulu-based institution had overcharged Medicaid patients from the Commonwealth. Medicaid administrator Helen Sablan said in a media interview Friday that her office has received $267,627 reimbursement from QMC. "We're still waiting for $80,540 more," she added. Sablan said the QMC found out about the CNMI overpayment upon reading the revised CNMI General Waiver and Operational Plan, which carries a provision that the CNMI Medicaid Agency pays for services at the rate paid by the local Medicaid program.

BOE rejects Babauta's MOU on teacher salary
The Board of Education rejected Friday the Governor's Office's proposed memorandum of understanding that would require the Public School System to use the promised increase in its budget for teachers' salary increases. The board, however, wants the Executive Branch to still give the PSS the additional budget, which amounts to slightly over $1 million. According to BOE vice chair Roman Benavente, the board wants the additional budget but it does not want to commit to the requirement embodied in the proposed MOU.

May 19, 2004

BOE chair: PSS needs to do more to raise reading levels
Board of Education chairman Roman C. Benavente acknowledged that the Public School System needs to do more in educating its students in view of recent findings that some of them graduate from elementary with a reading level of a second-grader or even below. "The assessment shows that what the PSS is doing is not enough. I'm aware that PSS is working hard already but it needs to take a more aggressive approach. I do acknowledge their efforts but based on this test results, I'm not satisfied," said the chairman. Benavente said the PSS administration headed by commissioner Rita H. Inos has been assuring him that they are moving ahead "but I wonder why this result [came out]." A reading test using a scientifically based program called STAR assessment and Accelerated Reader that was conducted among students at Hopwood Junior High School showed that most of them read below their grade level.

Landowner sues MPLA, DPW for nonpayment
A landowner has sued the Marianas Public Lands Authority and the Department of Public Works for breach of agreements, misrepresentation of facts, and gross disregard of a major land acquisition for over a decade now. Jose Ch. Camacho, through lawyer Robert Torres, said that in Dec. 1990, DPW executed a memorandum of understanding with him and his siblings for right-of-way acquisition of their lands in As Lito for public use: reconstruction of the As Lito road, installation of a drainage system, and installation of a new power distribution system.

Maharlika

DFA acknowledges receiving petition to retain consulate

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte said that they will continue to wait until September for an official response or action from Philippine government authorities regarding a petition to retain the services of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan. ***See related story on next page.***

Malasarte noted that while they remain optimistic, he also acknowledged that time is running out as the last day of the Consulate draws near.

The Consulate General announced in February the decision of the Department of Foreign Affairs to close down their office due to budgetary constraints.

UFO, the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the Commonwealth, initiated a petition that collected about 5,300 signatures from Filipinos living and working on the islands in hopes of preventing the imminent closure of the Consulate General after its last day on Oct. 31.

Malasarte

As of last week, the petition that was sent to various Philippine government offices was only acknowledged by the office of Sen. Loren Legarda, who chairs the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Malasarte disclosed that they received yesterday a written response sent by postal mail from the Presidential Action Center under the Office of the President in Malacañang, Manila.

The letter, signed by Director Bobby V. Dumlao, referred the petition to chief of staff Blesila Cabrera of the Department of Foreign Affairs Office of the Secretary.

"We want to make this public so that those who signed the petition would know that the document has been received by the concerned government offices," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*. "At this point, we are only waiting to hear from the Department of Foreign Affairs because even the Office of the President has referred our petition to them."

Malasarte emphasized that they are constantly following up with DFA on the petition through international phone calls and with the assistance of Manila-based UFO members.

"While we remain optimistic that DFA would take action on our appeal, it is only apt that we continue with our lives the way we have since the announcement of the closure," he noted.

Since the closure is not until after Oct. 31, Malasarte pointed out that they can continue to wait for an answer from DFA until September.

"We've already heard from the others, so I am certain that we will hear from DFA," he added.

'Deal or No Deal' at Pistang Pinoy in June

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Only one participant will be chosen to answer the question "Deal or No Deal?" similar to the popular television game show, which will highlight this year's Pistang Pinoy slated for next month.

Bong Malasarte of the United Filipino Organization, which hosts the annual event coinciding with the Philippine Independence Day festivities, said yesterday that the group is now working on the contest mechanics.

Malasarte, however, revealed a major requirement of the contest: The sole contestant will be chosen among those who will buy the $1 raffle tickets at the Pistang Pinoy (Filipino Fiesta) grounds.

The 2012 Pistang Pinoy will take place at the Civic Center Park in Susupe on June 10 from 10am onwards or immediately after the Independence Day commemoration ceremony sponsored by the Philippine Consulate General.

According to Malasarte, their version of "Deal or No Deal" will also feature the briefcase ladies by having the contestants of the first ever Pusong Pinoy beauty pageant hold butane cases containing increment amounts of money up to $1,000, which is the highest possible prize to be won.

"We want to have something that would provide excitement and entertainment among the Filipinos in the community, so what better way than to have a version of a game show that we love to watch on TV," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte said they are now soliciting sponsors for the Pistang Pinoy event, which promises to be the most fun and enjoyable year ever as UFO has other "surprises" in store for all Filipinos and others who want to take part in the celebration.

He said this year's event will also feature exhibition basketball games and teams that are participating in the UFO-sponsored leagues are all invited to participate in the two games in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Malasarte said they will also have an enhanced version of the cooking contest, which also serves as among the Pistang Pinoy attractions. More details will be made available soon, he added.

"We assure the community that we are doing our best to provide you with quality show and entertainment this year. We want to invite everyone to come celebrate Philippine Independence Day at Pistang Pinoy," said Malasarte.

Philippines willing to share Spratlys bounty—Aquino

AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

Protesters shout slogans while staging a die-in protest against the port call made by the U.S. submarine USS North Carolina at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines Thursday May 17, 2012. In their statement, the protesters alleged that the port call made by the Virginia class submarine only aggravates tension between the Philippines and China over the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—President Benigno Aquino III is willing to share with other countries in the region the benefits of the natural gas deposits in the disputed territories in the West Philippine Sea. But he said he will not be a party to the ceding of portions of the Philippine archipelago to a foreign power like China.

Speaking before a general assembly of alumni of US universities late Wednesday, Aquino said the Philippine government continues to talk with the Chinese for a mutually beneficial solution to their standoff over the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal as well as other disputed territories in the area.

"I am not empowered to give up any of our territory," the President said in answer to a suggestion that "a win-win solution" might be for the two countries to split the $35 trillion worth of natural gas that another disputed territory, the Recto Bank, is believed to hold.

The Recto Bank (international name: Reed Bank), which lies within the Philippines' 200 nautical-mile (370 kilometers) economic zone, is located abut 150 km east of the Spratly chain of islets, which is claimed in whole or in part by Brunei, Malaysia,

Taiwan and Vietnam, as well as the Philippines and China.

The Recto Bank, which is said to have oil and gas deposits that reach deep into the Cuyo Islands in Palawan, has been the subject of numerous exploration campaigns by the Philippines in the past.

The Philippines last year filed a diplomatic protest against China after two Chinese ships reportedly harassed a vessel that had been contracted by the government to undertake oil exploration activities in the bank.

Aquino acknowledged that the huge benefits from the resources in the disputed territories could free the region from dependence on fossil fuel from Middle Eastern and North African countries.

"If we are able to exploit these resources, that redounds to benefits for the entire region," he said.

He said the parties to the dispute "should work towards easing the problems and the concerns of our respective peoples in the here and now and not in some future date where, you know, it is not a fair solution."

"If it's clear that we have a 200-mile economic zone, exclusive economic zone, designated by the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Seas, and both of us are parties to it, is it too much to ask that our rights are respected by our neighbors in the same token that we respect their rights?" he said.

The President said the Philippines doesn't have to be "the sole winner of exploitation of resources" in the disputed areas. He said the country has always been a good neighbor to other countries in the Asia Pacific.

However, it has to draw the line when it should look after its rightful interests, he said.

"Recto Bank is 80 miles from us. There are areas that are even closer… So if we keep on subtracting about 30 percent—and not to be flippant about it—if you don't draw the line somewhere, will we be having claims against us on the Pasig River or other rivers?" he added.

He stressed that the Philippines was resolved on a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the disputes with China, noting that it cannot afford to engage Beijing militarily.

"So we are exploring ways and means to resolve the conflict. We keep on reemphasizing that we are not for conflict. We do not want to present a threat to them in any shape, manner or form, or whatsoever in terms of military action," he said.

"If it were just a boxing match, they're 1.3 billion and we're 93 million. We will not prevail. That is not the route and our Constitution actually prohibits it," he said.

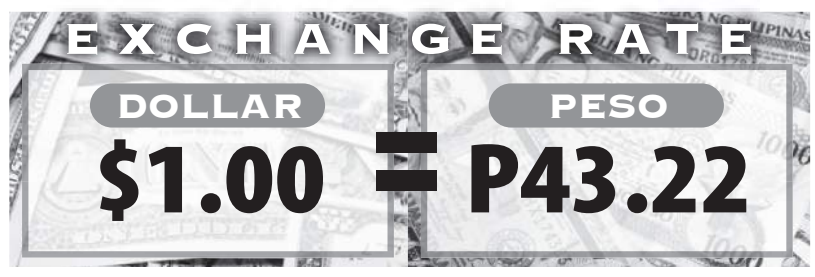
Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said there is an upside to the tension between the Philippines and China over the Panatag Shoal dispute.

He said the Philippines' refusal to bow down to China has united many Filipinos against a common enemy and earned the country respect from other groups and nations.

"This extended standoff, with the Philippines not buckling down against the world's second most powerful country, is gaining for us international respect and moral support," Golez said in a statement.

"It is a unifying and rallying force. Even Filipino groups outside the country have mobilized themselves in support of our cause," he said.

It also shows the world that the Philippines has a strong and steadfast foreign policy that does not crumble under economic pressure and veiled military threats, Golez said.



Japan eyes maritime aid for Philippine defense

By DJ YAP, REDEMPTO D. ANDA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Japan is planning to provide maritime vessels, including 1,000-ton patrol ships, to the Philippines to "support the island country in its territorial dispute against China," a Japanese newspaper reported in March, weeks before tensions erupted over the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

The Philippine Navy said it welcomed any form of assistance from any nation but could not confirm whether Japan had made such a commitment to the Philippine government.

In a March 22 report carried by KBS World Radio, a Korean English-language news website, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, a Japanese-language newspaper, was quoted as saying that Japan "has decided to provide the

Philippines with patrol ships" by year's end.

"The newspaper said that Japan has decided to provide vessels, including 1,000-ton patrol ships, to the Philippines by the end of the year," KBS World Radio said.

Not official yet

But the Japanese Embassy here Thursday said Japan "has not yet officially decided" if it would provide the Philippines with the maritime patrol vessels.

"The government of Japan is still considering whether to include them under its official development aid" to the Philippines, the embassy's information and press center told the Inquirer.

KBS World Radio said the move to supply the Philippines with patrol vessels came after the government last year eased the "Three Principles of Arms Export," a law which proscribes Japanese export of arms.

It quoted the Japanese paper as saying "this is a move to raise the Philippines' maritime safety capabilities in the South China Sea, where it is clashing with China over sovereignty rights."

"The United States and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are said to be keeping China in check as part of their efforts to maintain maritime security, which Japan also supports," KBS World Radio said.

Added boost

Navy spokesperson Lt. Col. Omar Tonsay said the Navy would appreciate the added boost to its capability, considering recent circumstances, but he said he could not confirm whether such plans were really in place.

Armed Forces public affairs chief Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos said the military was not part of the discussions, but that information reaching him indicated that the ships in discussion would be smaller than the reported 1,000-ton vessels.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces Chief Lt. Gen. Jessie Dellosa Thursday said the process of building "a credible defense" for the

Philippines was moving fast, with a new warship arriving on May 22, as well as eight new combat helicopters and radar facilities.

During a visit to Puerto Princesa City in Palawan Thursday, Dellosa said the purchase of new hardware would help the armed forces build a "modest deterrent capability."

The AFP chief met with Western Command Commander Juancho Sabban and key officers to assess the situation at the disputed Panatag Shoal just 200 kilometers off Masinloc in Zambales province.

On April 10, tensions rose between China and the Philippines over disputed fishing grounds in Panatag, known as Scarborough internationally and as Huangyan island to the Chinese.

2nd ship from US

Dellosa said the government would "formally receive" its second Hamilton-class naval vessel from the United States on May 22. The first such acquisition, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar, figured in the early part of the Scarborough standoff with Chinese vessels when its crew tried to arrest a group of Chinese poachers caught red-handed inside the disputed shoal.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Filipino Christian group protests Lady Gaga shows

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — About 70 Christian youths in the Philippines have chanted "Stop the Lady Gaga concerts" at a rally calling for the singer's shows in Manila next week to be canceled. Members of a group called Biblemode Youth Philippines said Friday that they are offended by Lady Gaga's music and videos, in particular her song "Judas," which they say mocks Jesus Christ. Protest leader and former Philippine Congressman Ben Abante says his group plans to file a case against Lady Gaga and concert organizers if she sings "Judas" at her Manila gigs Monday and Tuesday. Former Manila Mayor Jose Atienza says the singer and organizers can be punished for offending race or religion. Lady Gaga scrapped an Indonesia concert following protests there from conservative Muslims.

Philippine leader backs Sanchez on 'American Idol'

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has picked his "American Idol." The Philippines' leader says he is happy Jessica Sanchez is one of the singing contest's top three finalists and "hopefully she really reaches the top." The 16-year-old Sanchez is from Chula Vista, California, and has Filipino and Latino heritage. She is being cheered by many in the Philippines and by the Filipino and Mexican communities in the U.S. The TV talent show airs the finale next week.

It's final: DFA to close 10 foreign posts

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Foreign Affairs will proceed with the closure of 10 diplomatic outposts to make the Philippine foreign service "smarter, meaner and leaner."

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told the Makati Business Club and the Management Association of the Philippines the other day that the closures are necessary "so that we can allocate limited resources to areas of greater need."

Del Rosario did not name the missions to be closed, but DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez told the *Inquirer* that his boss was referring to the country's diplomatic posts on Saipan, Northern Marianas; Caracas, Venezuela; Barcelona, Spain; Dublin, Ireland; Frankfurt, Germany; Stockholm, Sweden; Bucharest, Romania; Helsinki, Finland; and Havana, Cuba; and the west Pacific island-state of Palau.

Earlier Hernandez said, "Six [of the DFA missions] will be closed by July, the rest by October."

"It is final. [President Benigno Aquino III] has already approved it," Hernandez added.

According to Del Rosario, the closures are one of four initiatives that "will enable us to more effectively focus on our foreign policy, which consists of three pillars: promoting national security, enhancing economic cooperation and protecting the rights and welfare of Filipinos overseas."

Del Rosario

The other initiatives are "restoring morale, upgrading the skills of our senior officials and putting merit over seniority," Del Rosario said.

Manny Pacquiao denounces anti-gay allegations

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Manny Pacquiao says he loves and supports gays and lesbians, even though he does not approve of gay marriage.

The world champion boxer and Filipino congressman has been criticized ever since he was quoted in an interview on the examiner.com website saying he opposed President Barack Obama's support for gay marriage.

Pacquiao said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press that he doesn't support gay marriage because of his Roman Catholic beliefs. But he said he has gay friends and relatives, and supports their rights.

"I'm not against the gay people," Pacquiao said. "I'm not condemning them. ... I have a cousin (who is) gay. I have relatives (who are) gay. I have a lot of friends (who are) gay, so I'm not condemning gays. What I said is I'm not in favor of same-sex marriage. That's the one thing I said to the guy.

"I told (the reporter) I'm against same-sex marriage," Pacquiao added. "He said, 'Why?' I said, 'It's the law of God.' That's all I said."

The examiner.com story contained a Bible passage from Leviticus calling for the death of "a man (who) lies with a man," and Pacquiao said many readers erroneously believed he had quoted that verse.

He said he had not, and the writer later clarified in a follow-up post that he had included the verse himself.

"My favorite verse in the Bible is 'Love one another,' and 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself,'" Pacquiao said. "It's in the Bible: Do not judge. I'm not judging."

Pacquiao was banned from a popular Hollywood shopping mall after the article was publicized Tuesday, and an online petition encouraging sponsor Nike to drop Pacquiao received 4,868 signatures before it was suspended Wednesday morning. The petition site, change.org, posted a note saying that the author of the original article had clarified that Pacquiao didn't cite the Bible passage.

Pacquiao spoke to the AP next to his pool at his comfortable Los Angeles home, where the congressman lives while training for fights at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood. The champion had the day off from training, spending the morning in medical exams before a big lunch and some relaxation.

Although Pacquiao is experiencing a newfound passion for his religion and has socially conservative views in line with many Filipinos' beliefs, he was eager to clear his name after a 24-hour avalanche of criticism over the belief that the eight-division world champion boxer had denounced gay rights and even supported the killing of gay people.

Although he opposes same-sex marriage, Pacquiao declined to weigh in on civil unions, the internationally popular alternative, saying he didn't know enough about the concept to form an opinion.

AP
Manny Pacquiao, world champion boxer and Filipino congressman, smiles during a break while speaking about his views on same-sex marriage, and other subjects, during the taping of a segment of the entertainment TV show "Extra" at his home in Los Angeles on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

"It's hard to give a correct answer to what's the right situation," he said.

The expansive Los Angeles mall known as The Grove, where the syndicated entertainment-news show "Extra" films its episodes, wouldn't allow Pacquiao to film a segment on its premises, worrying that an appearance by the boxer could be disruptive. Host Mario Lopez, an avid boxing fan, instead filmed an interview with Pacquiao at the fighter's home.

Pacquiao chuckled at the knowledge that his words—even words he said he didn't say—carry more weight than those of an average athlete because of his political aspirations.

"With great power comes great responsibility, so that's my responsibility, to handle everything," Pacquiao said. "This has happened before. You have to explain and understand. It's a lot more fun to train (for a fight)."

Pacquiao is the Philippines' most famous person and one of the world's most popular athletes. The eight-division world champion is a movie star, singer, pitchman and congressman, representing the Sarangani province in the Philippines' House of Representatives since May 2010.

He has won 16 consecutive fights since March 2005, beating Oscar De La Hoya, Juan Manuel Marquez, Miguel Cotto, Shane Mosley and Antonio Margarito. He will defend his WBO welterweight title against Timothy Bradley on June 9 in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao has embraced Catholicism in recent months after marital trouble with his wife, Jinkee. Although he has always attended Mass before his fights, the boxer has taken up frequent Bible study, and he traveled from the Philippines to the U.S. in the company of a spiritual adviser and pastor, Jeric Soriano, now a regular presence in Pacquiao's life in Los Angeles and the Philippines.

"It's difficult sometimes, but God gave me a talent," Pacquiao said. "He gave me a wisdom and a knowledge."

Although Pacquiao has some conservative social views, he also has ties to progressive American politicians, including Nevada Sen. Harry Reid. The boxer campaigned for the Democratic majority leader during his tough re-election victory over Sharron Angle in 2010.

Pacquiao also visited Obama at the White House last year, discussing basketball and boxing. The fighter says he enjoyed meeting Obama, but didn't share his views on same-sex marriage.

Pacquiao is the fourth of six children born into poverty in the Philippines, and he has four children of his own with his wife. He has spoken out against birth control during his political career, affirming his Roman Catholic faith.

Floyd Mayweather Jr., Pacquiao's only rival for pound-for-pound supremacy in boxing, took to Twitter on Wednesday to tout his own beliefs.

"I stand behind President Obama & support gay marriage," Mayweather tweeted. "I'm an American citizen & I believe people should live their life the way they want."

Samu't Sari

STALLION TRACK TEAM

Tinian High School students (with Vice Principal Eric San Nicolas) pose in front of the TJSHS Library as they get ready to board the bus that took them to the West Tinian Airport to await their departure for their trip to Saipan to compete in this year's McDonald's All Schools Track Meet on Saipan. Not in photo are the team's coach/chaperone Jose T. King, TJSHS principal Julian Hofschneider and other chaperones that will assist King during their stay on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HIGHEST READING GROWTH

The classes of Ms. Rinenta Hofschneider of Tinian Elementary School are winners of the Library Month Highest Reading Growth. Winners won lunch at JC Cafe courtesy of Tinian Municipal Council chair Esteven Cabrera. Standing at the back are teacher Rinenta Hofschneider, left, school principal Dione Santos, center, and teacher Connie Manglona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONFIRMATION

From left, Teddy Anore and daughter Alonica Anore, Velma Reyes (godmother of Ria), Ria Borja, and her mom Eloise Borja celebrate their recent Catholic confirmation on Sunday, May 13. They celebrated later at the JC Café.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JAILHOUSE LOCKDOWN

"Public defender" Sean White, left, represents his "client," Attorney General Edward Buckingham, during a mock "bail hearing" Thursday as part of the Department of Public Safety's Jailhouse Lockdown fund-raiser in Gualo Rai. Buckingham, fictitiously "charged" with driving an economy- and environment-friendly vehicle, was "released" on a $250 bail.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Amelito O. Dalusong Jr. for graduating from sixth grade this year and welcome to middle school! May you find success in your future educational endeavors. Greetings come from your parents, Marissa and Jovel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Angelbert S. Olaes, who will be graduating from kindergarten this year. May you continue to find success in your schooling and may the good Lord guide you in all your future endeavors. Greetings come from your Mom and Dad, Ana and Lito Olaes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Advanced happy 13th birthday to kuya Jan Mico M. Manalo, who is celebrating his special day on Sunday, May 20! Thank God for giving you to us. You know how proud we are of you. We love you so much! Greetings come from Papa, Mama, and Jaena.

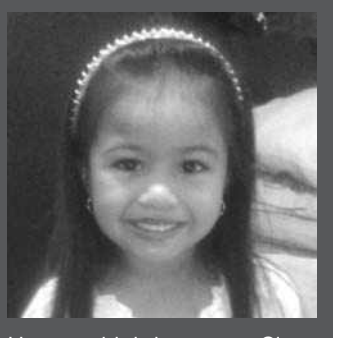
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Kimberly Ruak, who is celebrating her special day on May 20, 2012. As God adds life to your years, may He add years to your life. Happy birthday! God bless!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Arlene Valencia, who celebrated her special day on May 18, 2012. May the good Lord shower you with many blessings on your special day. God bless!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Ciana Makaena Agulto who is turning 4 on May 20! May the Lord bless you on your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Facebook's IPO one of world's largest

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook is about to find out just how much status updates, puppy photos and billions of "likes" are worth on Wall Street.

Facebook's stock is set to begin trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market on Friday, the day after the world's definitive online social network raised $16 billion in an initial public offering that valued the company at $104 billion. That's more than Amazon.com and other well-known companies such as Kraft, Walt Disney and McDonald's.

It's a big windfall for a company that began eight years ago with no way to make money.

Facebook priced its IPO at $38 per share on Thursday, at the top of expectations. Now, regular investors will have a chance to buy stock in Facebook for the first time. The stock will trade under ticker symbol will be FB.

Facebook's offering is the culmination of a year's worth of Internet IPOs that began last May with LinkedIn Corp. Since then, a steady stream of startups focused on the social side of the Web has gone public, with varying degrees of success. It all led up to Facebook, the company that's come to define social networking by getting 900 million people around the world to share everything from photos of their pets to their deepest thoughts.

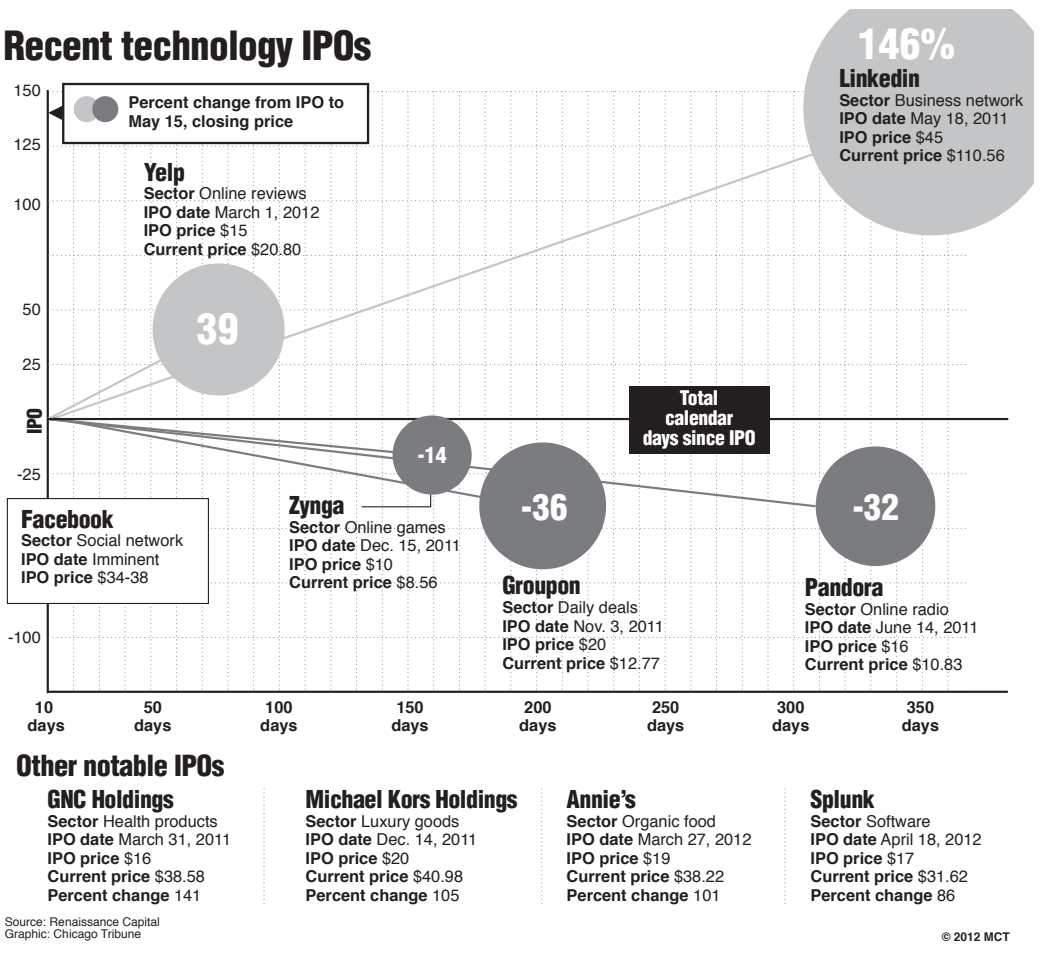
It has done so while managing to become one of the few profitable Internet companies to go public recently. It had net income of $205 million in the first three months of 2012, on revenue of $1.06 billion. In all of 2011, it earned $1 billion, up from $606 million a year earlier. That's a far cry from 2007, when it posted a net loss of $138 million and revenue of $153 million.

"They could have gone public in 2009 at a much lower price," said Nick Einhorn, research analyst at IPO investment advisory firm Renaissance Capital. "They waited as long as they could to go public, so it makes sense that it's a very large offering."

Facebook Inc.'s valuation is the third-highest in an IPO, according to Dealogic, a provider of financial data. Only two Chinese banks, Agricultural Bank of China in 2010 and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China in 2006, have been worth more. They were worth $133 billion and $132 billion, respectively. By another measure—the amount raised—Facebook ranks third among U.S. IPOs. The largest was Visa, which raised $17.9 billion in 2008. No. 2 was Enel, a power company, and No. 4 was General Motors, according to Renaissance Capital.

The $38 share price is the price at which the investment banks arranging the offering will sell the stock to their clients. In an IPO, the banks buy the stock first from the company and the early investors and then sell to the public. If extra shares reserved to cover additional demand are sold as part of the transaction, Facebook and its early investors stand to reap as much as $18.4 billion.

For a company that was born in a Harvard dormitory and went on to reimagine online communication, the stock sale means more money to build on the features and services it offers users. It means an infusion of money to hire the best engineers to work at its sprawling Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters, or in New York City, where it opened an engineering office last year.



Q&A on blockbuster Facebook IPO

By BERNARD CONDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

When the social media company's stock starts trading Friday under the symbol FB, buyer demand is expected to explode. At its initial offering price of $38 a share, the 8-year-old upstart is worth $104 billion. That's more than such giants as Disney and Kraft.

The riches that will flow to the company and its early investors total nearly $16 billion.

As with any initial offering, Facebook's IPO follows lots of negotiation—over price, paperwork, selling and buying. Here are some questions and answers about its public debut:

Q: So why is Facebook going public?

A: The same reason many other fast-growing companies do: to raise money. Selling stock to the public gives companies money to run their businesses, expand and buy other companies. Sometimes companies go public even if they have no plans for the money. Facebook says it wants to establish a public market for its shares in case it needs to raise money from investors in the future.

Q: What happens in an IPO?

A: The company sells ownership stakes to the public for the first time. Facebook plans to sell up to 421 million shares. That represents a 15 percent stake in the company. The sale is expected to raise $16 billion.

Q: Who owns shares of Facebook now?

A: Well-connected investors, employees and top insiders like company directors. They are selling 241 million shares, or more than half the total being sold. The company has said it's selling shares at $38 each. At that price, those early owners will pocket $9 billion, or an average of $230 million each. The company will get $7 billion

Q: Who will buy the shares?

A: In an IPO, there are two buyers. The first are the investment banks that helped the company file IPO documents with regulators and contacted pension funds, mutual funds and other big institutions to gauge a price for the shares. These investment banks are called underwriters. In Facebook's case, 33 banks are helping out; Morgan Stanley has the lead role. The underwriters guarantee to the company that they'll buy all of the shares at the IPO price.

Q: When do the underwriters buy the shares?

A: Before shares start trading publicly. Facebook's underwriters were expected to buy all the sellers' shares Thursday night. But first, the underwriters had to negotiate a price with a second group of buyers—the institutions that will buy the shares from them. They did that Thursday night, settling on a price of $38. In a document filed with regulators this week, Facebook had estimated that the price would be between $34 and $38.

Q: Is this negotiated price the IPO price?

A: Yes. But that's not what the underwriters pay the company and insiders. After settling on an IPO price, the underwriters subtract a commission for their work. With big IPOs like Facebook's, that's typically 3 percent. At $38, that would mean Morgan Stanley and the other Facebook underwriters would get $1.14 off for each share. They'd pay $36.86 a share. Underwriters have five days to transfer the money to the company and other sellers.

Can global leaders help Europe contain crisis?

WASHINGTON (AP)—When leaders from eight of the world's biggest economies meet this weekend outside Washington, the focus will be on how to prevent Europe's debt crisis from spiraling out of control.

The turmoil in Greece is draining confidence in the 17 countries that use the euro. Borrowing costs are up for the most indebted governments. Depositors and investors are fleeing banks seen as weak. Unemployment is soaring as recession grips nearly half the eurozone countries. And global markets are on edge.

All that forms a tumultuous backdrop as representatives of the G8 countries—the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Japan, Russia, Italy and Canada—head to Camp David. Standing in the way of a breakthrough are disagreements over how to bolster Europe's economy and avoid a broader catastrophe.

In advance of the talks, German Chancellor Angela Merkel struck a conciliatory note this week. She said in a television interview this week that she was open to measures to help stimulate Greece's economy as long as the country honors its commitments to shrink its debts.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner applauded the softer tone emerging among European leaders.

"You are seeing them talk about a better balance between growth and austerity, meaning a somewhat more gradual, softer path toward restoring fiscal sustainability," Geithner said.

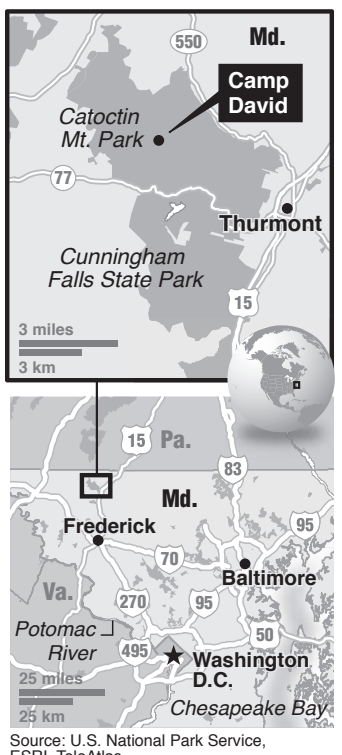
The shift shows that European leaders recognize that countries can't increase their economic growth if they're forced to focus solely on cutting spending and reducing debts. Geithner said European countries would benefit from investment in public works projects, like roads and schools.

Camp David

President Barack Obama will host world leaders for the Group of Eight (G-8) economic summit at Camp David, the presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin mountains.

About Camp David

- **Wanting a wartime retreat** near the capital, President Franklin Roosevelt directed the National Park Service to find a site; the retreat, then called Shangri-la, was set up in 1942
- **In the 1950s,** President Dwight Eisenhower renamed it Camp David in honor of his grandson
- **In 1954,** the nearly 6,000-acre Catoctin Mountain Park around the camp was created out of a recreational area
- **Today the camp,** which is highly guarded and off-limits to the public, includes 11 cabins, a helicopter pad, a swimming pool, a bowling alley and a skeet shooting range



Source: U.S. National Park Service, ESRI, TeleAtlas
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2012 MCT

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,442.49	1,304.85	2,813.69
-156.06	-19.94	-60.35
-1.24%	-1.51%	-2.10%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0197	Hong Kong Dollar	7.769	Philippine Peso	43.225
British Pound	0.6354	Indian Rupee	54.8688	Singapore Dollar	1.2764
Canadian Dollar	1.0224	Indonesian Rupiah	9372.5	South Korean Won	1172.62
Chinese Yuan	6.3281	Japanese Yen	79.257	Swiss Franc	0.9485
Euro	0.7897	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1383	Taiwan Dollar	29.6273
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3236	Thailand Baht	31.43

Nation

Documents shed new light on Trayvon Martin killing

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Trayvon Martin's autopsy shows he had marijuana in his system the night he was killed by neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, and a gunshot to his chest came from close range, according to nearly 200 pages of previously undisclosed documents released Thursday.

At least one investigator wanted to charge Zimmerman with manslaughter but was overruled, according to the documents, which are shedding new light on a case that has raised questions about racial profiling and "stand your ground" laws. The investigator, who was on the scene after the shooting, wrote on March 13 that the confrontation should have been avoided. That report came nearly a month before Zimmerman was arrested.

The documents, photos and video were turned over by prosecutors to defense attorneys earlier this week before they were released to the media. Included in the many witness interviews were accounts by an acquaintance of Zimmerman's who said he's racist and a co-worker who said Zimmerman bullied him and mocked him with an exaggerated Middle Eastern accent.

The autopsy says medical examiners found THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, when they tested Martin's blood and urine. A police report shows the 17-year-old had been shot once in the chest and had been pronounced dead at the scene. The autopsy says the fatal shot was fired from no more than 18 inches away.

AP

This Feb. 27, 2012 photo released by the State Attorney's Office shows George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who shot Trayvon Martin. The photo and reports were among evidence released by prosecutors that also includes calls to police, video and numerous other documents.

Also in the package is a photo showing Zimmerman with a bloody nose on the night of the fight. A paramedic report says Zimmerman had a 1-inch laceration on his head and forehead abrasion.

"Bleeding tenderness to his nose, and a small laceration to the back of his head. All injuries have minor bleeding," paramedic Michael Brandy wrote about Zimmerman's injuries in the report.

Whether Zimmerman was injured in the Feb. 26 altercation with Martin has been a key question. The 28-year-old Zimmerman has claimed self-defense and said he only fired because the unarmed teenager attacked him.

Zimmerman was not arrested for weeks because he invoked the Florida's law that does not require a person to retreat in the face of a serious threat. He was released on bail and is in hiding while he awaits trial on a second-degree murder charge. He has pleaded not guilty.

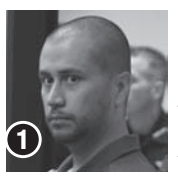
The investigator who called for Zimmerman's arrest, Christopher Serino, told prosecutors in March that the fight could have been avoided if Zimmerman had remained in his vehicle and awaited the arrival of law enforcement. He said Zimmerman, after leaving his vehicle, could have identified himself to Martin as a concerned citizen and talked to him instead of confronting him.

He said there is no evidence Martin was involved in any criminal activity.

The lawyer for Martin's parents seized on the investigator's recommendation.

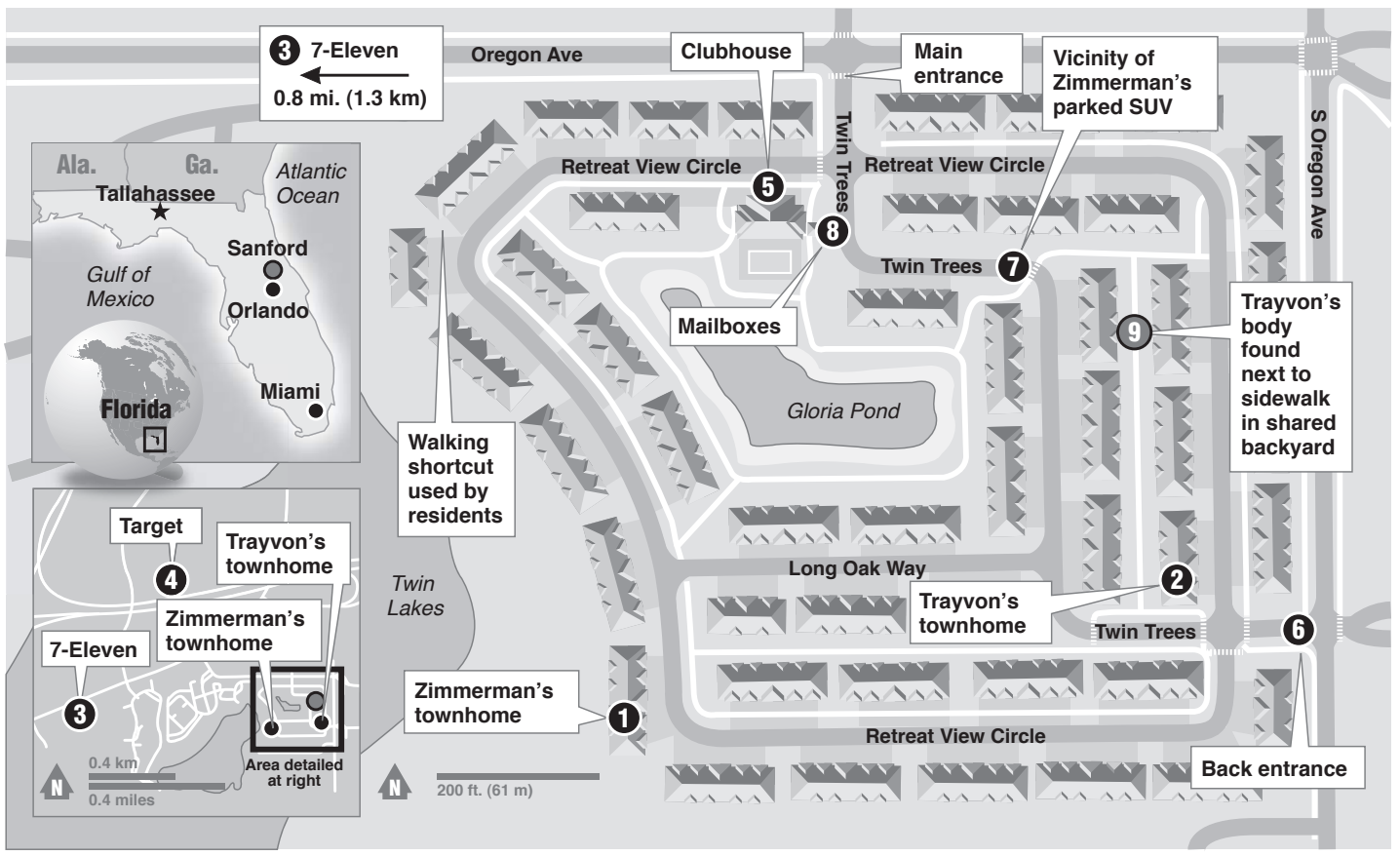
A deadly six minutes

The Retreat at Twin Lakes is a gated community in Sanford, Fla., about 20 mi. (32 km) north of Orlando, where Trayvon Martin, 17, was staying with his father during a 10-day suspension from his Miami high school. The map below shows various locations related to Trayvon's shooting death on Feb. 26 by George Zimmerman, 28, a volunteer neighborhood watch captain.



1 George Zimmerman in court April 12

2 Trayvon Martin at age 14



1. Zimmerman lives in the subdivision with his wife
2. Trayvon is staying at the home of his father's girlfriend
3. During the NBA All-Star Game halftime, Trayvon walks to the 7-Eleven; he chats on his cellphone with his girlfriend
4. Zimmerman tells his family he's heading to Target; he carries the 9mm semiautomatic handgun he uses during patrols
5. **7:09:34 p.m., ET** Zimmerman calls police from his SUV and says he's spotted a suspicious-looking teen near the clubhouse
6. **7:11:43 p.m.** Zimmerman tells police Trayvon is running towards the subdivision's back entrance
7. **7:11:46 p.m.** Zimmerman leaves his truck and confirms to police that he is following Trayvon; police advise him not to follow the teen; he agrees to stop; it is now 7:12:01 p.m.

   7:12 p.m. Trayvon's girlfriend calls back moments after they hang up; he tells her he's being followed; she says to run
8. **7:13:14 p.m.** Zimmerman agrees to meet police at the mailboxes; seconds later, he tells them to call him when they arrive; the call ends at 7:13:38 p.m.

   7:16 p.m. Trayvon's call with his girlfriend goes dead after she hears a scuffle and his phone's headset fall

   One-minute gap Neighbors hear cries for help and call police; there is a single shot, then silence
9. **7:17 p.m.** Police arrive, finding Trayvon's body about 200 ft. (61 m) from his backyard; he is pronounced dead at 7:30 p.m.

NOTE: Times stamped to the second are based on Zimmerman's 911 call that started at 7:11 p.m., ET — a time that is rounded to the minute; calls between Trayvon and his girlfriend and the time police arrive are rounded to the minute

Source: Miami Herald interviews, ABC News interviews, police reports and 911 recordings, MCT Photo Service; Miami Herald staff writer Audra D.S. Burch contributed to this report Graphic: Kara Dapena, Miami Herald © 2012 MCT

Closing arguments in John Edwards corruption trial

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Attorneys hammered at the credibility of John Edwards and his once-trusted aide as arguments in his campaign corruption trial ended Thursday, leaving jurors to decide whether the presidential candidate's sex scandal cover-up amounted to a crime or a litany of lies.

Edwards

Jurors begin deliberations Friday on six counts of campaign finance fraud that could send Edwards to prison for up to 30 years.

They will weigh whether to believe Edwards' arguments that he didn't knowingly break the law when he sought to cover up an affair with his pregnant mistress, or his aide, Andrew Young, who said Edwards recruited him to use secret donations from wealthy donor to hide the affair.

In closing arguments Thursday, prosecutor Bobby Higdon recounted Edwards' affair with Rielle Hunter, a videographer working on his campaign, and said the candidate would "deny, deceive and manipulate" at every turn to keep the revelation from destroying his political career.

Edwards knew of the money going to Young and Hunter from heiress Rachel "Bunny" Mellon and campaign finance chairman Fred Baron, Higdon said. He also was well aware of the $2,300 legal limit on campaign donations, Higdon said.

"It is a simple rule and applies to every candidate and every donor," Higdon said.

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell said prosecutors didn't prove that Edwards knew that taking the money violated the law and said the 2008 candidate shouldn't be convicted for being a liar.

"This is a case that should define the difference between a wrong and a crime ... between a sin and a felony," Lowell told the jury. "John Edwards has confessed his sins. He will serve a life sentence for those. But he has pleaded not guilty to violating the law."

Lowell also pointed to inconsistent testimony of both Andrew Young and his wife, Cheri, about assurances they said Edwards gave them that accepting the money from Mellon was legal.

ACROSS THE NATION

6 shot, 3 dead, in west Louisville neighborhood

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Three people were killed Thursday after a chaotic shooting scene that had crowds running for cover in a crime-ridden section of Louisville. Two men—Tyson Mimms, 24 and Craig Bland Jr., 22—were killed Thursday afternoon in a shooting that attracted dozens of onlookers anxious for answers in the city's Russell neighborhood, which is dotted with boarded-up houses. As police investigated and a host of media gathered nearby, shots rang out about four houses down. Makeba Lee, 24, was killed after she was shot by a woman who had gotten into an argument with her about the incident, police said. That woman was later wounded by police and taken to the hospital.

Phosphorous may have been on hot beach rocks in CA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beach rocks that caused a California woman's shorts to catch fire and severely burn her legs and hands appeared to be coated with phosphorus, but it was unclear how the flammable chemical got onto the stones found near a military base, authorities said Thursday. "We have never been aware of anything like this before," said Denise Fennessy, assistant director of Orange County's environmental health division. Field tests indicated the phosphorus was found on two rocks from San Onofre State Beach that will be submitted to a state-certified laboratory for verification, Fennessy said.

House OKs continued war in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House endorsed the continued war in Afghanistan on Thursday despite acknowledgment from Republicans and Democrats that the American people are war-weary after more than a decade of conflict. By a vote of 303-113, lawmakers rejected an amendment that would have swiftly ended combat operations in Afghanistan by limiting funds only to the "safe and orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops and military contractors from Afghanistan." An Associated Press-GfK poll released last week showed that backing for the war has hit a new low and is on par with support for the Vietnam War in the early 1970s.

Asia

Activist: China to have passports ready in 2 weeks

BEIJING (AP)—The activist who was at the center of a diplomatic tussle between Beijing and Washington said Thursday that Chinese officials have told him the passports that he and his family just applied for should be ready within two weeks. A rights group, meanwhile, described more retaliation by authorities against his family.

From a Beijing hospital room where he remains under virtual house arrest, Chen Guangcheng said in a phone interview with The Associated Press that it remained unclear if he, his wife and their two children would be able to leave China shortly after getting their passports.

Chen made a dramatic late night escape from abusive house arrest in eastern Shandong province last month and after several days hiding from security officials in Beijing wound up in the protection of U.S. diplomats, triggering intense U.S.-Chinese negotiations on his fate.

Chen and his family are now expected to be able to travel abroad for him to study in the United States in an agreement between Beijing and Washington following days of talks.

Chinese officials who brought paperwork for Chen and his family to fill out Wednesday at the hospital said the processing time for passports is up to 15 days, Chen said.

Guangcheng

The State Department has said that U.S. visas for Chen and his family are ready for them to travel to America once Beijing approves. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei, in a regular briefing, would not say whether the processing of Chen's and his family's passports would be expedited.

Back in Chen's hometown, reports are emerging of more retaliation by local authorities against Chen's extended family.

In a rare videotaped interview with Hong Kong online magazine iSun Affairs on Saturday, Chen's elder brother Chen Guangfu described being tortured by men in plainclothes after Chen's escape from house arrest.

Chen Guangfu said the men cuffed his hands behind his back and shackled his feet with a chain, then slapped him several times, struck him in the ribs and stomped on his feet.

"At the beginning they asked me, 'Do you know what's happened?' and I said, 'I don't know,' and each time I said that, they slapped me," Chen Guangfu said in the interview inside his home in Dongshigu village. Chen Guangfu said the interrogation lasted three days.

Chen Guangfu's son, Chen Kegui, is now in detention, accused of attempted homicide after allegedly hacking at officials with knives after they charged into his house.

Calls to local police and Communist Party offices rang unanswered Thursday.

The AP's phone conversation with Chen was cut off before he could be asked about the latest reports of retaliation against his family.

Chen is a self-taught legal activist who gained recognition for crusading for the disabled and fighting against forced abortions in his rural community. But he angered local officials and was convicted in 2006 on what his supporters say were fabricated charges. After serving four years in prison, he then faced an abusive and illegal house arrest.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani air force planes crash, 4 pilots killed

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Two Pakistani air force planes crashed in a residential area in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday, killing all four pilots on board and injuring five people on the ground, police said. Residents of Nowshera city, where the planes went down, reported that the aircraft collided before they crashed, but the air force is still investigating, said police official Fazil Khan. The planes took off from an air force academy in nearby Risalpur, said Mohammad Hussain, the Nowshera police chief. Local TV footage showed the twisted metal wreckage from one of the planes among a group of houses in Nowshera.

China sentences fugitive smuggler Lai to life term

BEIJING (AP)—The man once considered China's most-wanted fugitive was sentenced to life in prison Friday for running a large-scale smuggling operation that paid off scores of Chinese government officials, state media said. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that Lai Changxing was convicted and sentenced Friday morning by the Intermediate People's Court in Xiamen, the port city which operated as his base. He had battled deportation from Canada for a decade, saying he risked torture or execution if returned. The court additionally sentenced him to 15 years for bribery and ordered all of Lai's personal property seized.

Myanmar president feeling ill, resting at home

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's President Thein Sein was resting at his home in Yangon after military doctors paid a house call but gave no details about what was ailing the 67-year-old leader. Officials confirmed that Thein Sein was not feeling well and at his private residence. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the health of a leader is a sensitive topic in Myanmar. The officials said he could be suffering from exhaustion due to a heavy workload. Thein Sein has a heart condition. He traveled to Singapore earlier this year for a new pacemaker.

Bus plunges into Vietnam river bank; 34 killed

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A crowded bus plunged into a river bank in central Vietnam, killing 34 people and injuring 21 others in one of the country's deadliest road accidents. Local official Tran Bao Que says the bus smashed through the rails of a bridge Thursday night and plunged into the bank of the Serepok River about 18 meters (60 feet) below. Y Bliu Arul, deputy director of the General Hospital in Dak Lak, says the bus's two drivers were among the 32 people who died at the scene. Two others died at the hospital. Of the 21 injured, 16 were in serious condition.

New Zealand 'accidental millionaire' found guilty

ROTORUA, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand woman who went on the run with some of the millions of dollars mistakenly deposited into her partner's bank account has been convicted of theft, attempted fraud and money laundering. Kara Hurring and partner Hui "Leo" Gao were dubbed the "Accidental Millionaires" after Westpac bank in 2009 gave them a credit line of 10 million New Zealand dollars (US$7.7 million) - 100 times their approved limit. The couple transferred millions into other accounts and left for China. Hurring returned after having a baby. The New Zealand Herald said Hurring cried in the Rotorua court Friday when the jury found her guilty of 30 charges. She is due to be sentenced in August. Gao was extradited from Hong Kong last year and faces similar charges.

Blasts, arrests during Bangladesh strike

AP

A police office sits on a motorcycle near a bus which was set on fire by suspected activists of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bomb blasts and arrests marked an opposition-called general strike in Bangladesh on Thursday in protest of a court order jailing 33 of the alliance's leaders.

No injuries were reported from several crude bombs that exploded in Dhaka. Schools and businesses were shut in the capital, and public life was disrupted in other major cities and towns during the shutdown. The United News of Bangladesh agency said police arrested at least 17 activists in Dhaka.

ATN Bangla television station said more than 100 opposition supporters were arrested in various districts.

A court on Wednesday had denied bail to 33 opposition leaders charged with involvement in an arson attack during a strike last month. The defendants include former Cabinet ministers and the acting secretary general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. It heads the 18-party opposition alliance.

The opposition says the arson charge is politically motivated and the bail rejection is aimed at suppressing the opposition movement.

Political tensions have sharply escalated since Elias Ali, an organizing secretary in Zia's party, and his driver went missing April 17 from a street in Dhaka. The opposition blames the government and its security agencies for his disappearance, which they deny.

On Thursday, a top business leader urged political parties to avoid confrontation.

A.K. Azad, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries, in a pre-budget discussion in Dhaka asked Finance Minister A.M.A. Muhith to resolve the disputes in consultation with the prime minister.

"We all know confrontational political programs like general strikes largely affect the country's economy. We do not want such programs," he said.

Zia's party, meanwhile, announced in a statement that a two-hour token hunger strike protest by opposition lawmakers will be held on the parliament building premises on Saturday to demand release of the leaders.

Rights groups have counted at least 22 disappearances this year and more than 50 since 2010, mostly of politicians. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have urged the government to investigate.

The opposition also set a June 10 ultimatum for the government to restore a caretaker government system to oversee the next national elections, due in 2014. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government scrapped the 15-year-old system last year in what the opposition says was part of a plan to rig the elections.

On Thursday, police cordoned off the headquarters of Zia's and scuffled with those who tried to enter. Witnesses say Khairul Kabir Khokon, education affairs secretary of the party, was arrested.

General strikes are common opposition tactics in Bangladesh, a fragile parliamentary democracy, to embarrass the government.

World

US envoy to Israel: US ready to strike Iran

JERUSALEM (AP)—The U.S. has plans in place to attack Iran if necessary to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons, Washington's envoy to Israel said, days ahead of a crucial round of nuclear talks with Tehran.

Dan Shapiro's message resonated Thursday far beyond the closed forum in which it was made: Iran should not test Washington's resolve to act on its promise to strike if diplomacy and sanctions fail to pressure Tehran to abandon its disputed nuclear program.

Shapiro told the Israel Bar Association the U.S. hopes it will not have to resort to military force.

"But that doesn't mean that option is not fully available. Not just available, but it's ready," he said. "The necessary planning has been done to ensure that it's ready."

AP

Iranian men set representations of Israeli flag with red lines indicating cancellation, on fire in a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, May, 15, 2012.

Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, like energy production. The U.S. and Israel suspect Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons, but differences have emerged in how to persuade Tehran to curb its program.

Washington says diplomacy and economic sanctions must be given a chance to run its course, and is taking the lead in the ongoing talks between six global powers and Iran.

Israel, while saying it would prefer a diplomatic solution, has expressed skepticism about these talks and says time is running out for military action to be effective.

President Barack Obama has assured Israel that the U.S. is prepared to take military action if necessary, and it is standard procedure for armies to draw up plans for a broad range of possible scenarios. But Shapiro's comments were the most explicit sign yet that preparations have been stepped up.

In his speech, Shapiro acknowledged the clock is ticking.

"We do believe there is time. Some time, not an unlimited amount of time," Shapiro said. "But at a certain point, we may have to make a judgment that the diplomacy will not work."

The U.S. envoy spoke on Tuesday. The Associated Press obtained a recording of his remarks on Thursday.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany are gearing up to for a May 23 meeting with Iran in Baghdad. Shortly after the meeting, the U.N. atomic agency is to release its latest report card on Iran's nuclear efforts.

In Tehran on Thursday, top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili warned against Western pressure at next week's talks, which are a follow-up to negotiations in Istanbul last month that all sides praised as positive.

"Cooperation is what we can talk about in Baghdad," Jalili said in comments broadcast on Iranian state TV.

"Some say time is running out for the talks," he added. "I say time for the (West's) pressure strategy is running out."

Four rounds of U.N. sanctions have failed to persuade Iran to halt its uranium enrichment, a process that has civilian uses but is also key to bomb-making. But recent U.S. and European measures, including an oil embargo and financial and banking sanctions, have bludgeoned Iran's economy by curtailing its ability to carry on economic transactions with the international community.

Israel says a nuclear weapon in the hands of Iran would threaten the Jewish state's survival and has waged a fierce diplomatic campaign against the Iranian nuclear program for years. Israel cites Iranian calls for Israel's destruction, Iran's arsenal of missiles, and its support for anti-Israel militant groups.

Police on swallowed diamond: This, too, shall pass

WINDSOR, Ontario (AP)—Police in Canada say they are waiting for a man accused of stealing a $20,000 diamond and swallowing it to produce the evidence.

It has been nearly a week since Richard Mackenzie Matthews, 52, is alleged to have switched a diamond at Precision Jewellers in Ontario and swallowed the real one.

Matthews is being held at police headquarters while investigators wait for the 1.7-carat stone to pass through his system. Sgt. Brett Corey said Thursday that Matthews has gone to the washroom numerous times, but the diamond hasn't passed.

Corey says a recent X-ray showed a pair of fake diamonds, or cubic zirconiums, stuck in the man's intestines but because a diamond is translucent, it isn't visible. He says the suspect is eager to get the ordeal over with and is co-operating.

In the early stages, Corey says Matthews was being given laxative type foods, but is now being fed whatever he wants, in an effort to get things moving.

Matthews is charged with theft and breach of court conditions, and is also wanted on warrants in Toronto.

Syrian opposition head offers to resign

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's main opposition council is crumbling under the weight of infighting and divisions over issues that cut to the heart of the revolution, including accusations that the movement is becoming as autocratic as the regime it wants to drive out.

The slow disintegration of the Syrian National Council, which has become the international face of the uprising, could complicate Western efforts to bolster the opposition, just as President Bashar Assad's regime gathers momentum in its crackdown on dissent.

Ghalioun

On Thursday, SNC leader Burhan Ghalioun said he was ready to step down once a replacement is found, amid mounting criticism of his leadership.

The decision came just days after he was re-elected for a third, three month term during a council vote held in Rome. The council has said it would rotate the presidency every three months, so Ghalioun's repeated appointments rankled some who wanted a new face.

"I will not accept under any circumstances to be a divisive candidate, and I am not after any post," said Ghalioun, an exiled Syrian and professor at the Sorbonne in Paris. "I will resign as soon as a new candidate is picked, either by consensus or new elections."

Ghalioun, a secular Sunni Muslim academic who has led the council since its formation in September, has been criticized by some opposition figures of being too close to the Muslim Brotherhood and of trying to monopolize power.

Fifteen months into the uprising, Syria's opposition is still struggling to overcome internal rivalries and power struggles that prevent the movement from gaining the traction it needs to present a credible alternative to Assad. Its international backers have repeatedly appealed for the movement to pull together and work as one unit.

But as the conflict becomes more violent, with rebel fighters and others taking up arms, attempts to operate under a single umbrella have become increasingly difficult.

"Although it (the SNC) was conceptualized as a formation designed to represent society as a whole, it has played a very polarizing role. By mishandling personality issues, it has alienated more prominent opposition figures than necessary," said Peter Harling of the International Crisis Group think tank.

The U.N. estimated in March that the violence in Syria has killed more than 9,000 people. Hundreds more have been killed since then as a revolt that began with mostly peaceful calls for reform has transformed into an armed insurgency.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt: Owner of belly dancing TV station arrested

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's vice police on Thursday arrested the owner of a belly dancing TV station on suspicion of operating without a license, inciting licentiousness and facilitating prostitution, a security official said. The station, ElTet, broadcasts videos 24 hours a day of scantily clad belly dancers giving sultry performances to live in-studio music. Early Thursday, Egyptian vice police raided an apartment in central Cairo where the station's owner, Baligh Hamdy, had been running the operations and recording most of the videos, the security official said. Police confiscated tapes and video equipment and arrested Hamdy.

Cuban president's daughter gets US visa

HAVANA (AP)—Cuban first daughter Mariela Castro has been granted a U.S. visa to attend events in San Francisco and New York, sparking a firestorm of criticism from Cuban-American politicians who called her an enemy of democracy and a shill for the Communist government her family has led for decades. The trip, which kicks off next week when Castro is due to chair a panel on sexual diversity at a conference organized by the Latin American Studies Association, is among several to the United States by prominent Cubans, some with close links to the government.

Judge delays Mladic trial due to evidence errors

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—An apparent clerical error prompted judges to postpone the long-awaited war crimes trial of former Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic on Thursday, possibly for months. The delay cast a shadow over one of the court's biggest cases—and over the reputation of the court itself, where most prominent trials have proceeded at a snail's pace, frustrating many victims. It also highlighted problems faced by international tribunals in prosecuting sweeping indictments covering allegations of atrocities spanning years in countries far from the courts where defendants face justice.

Caretaker Greek Cabinet, legislators sworn in

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece swore in 300 legislators for just one day before it dissolves Parliament and calls new elections, among them 21 lawmakers from Golden Dawn—arguably the most far-right party to be involved in a European national legislature since Nazi-era Germany. Formerly a shadowy fringe group, Golden Dawn vehemently rejects the neo-Nazi label, insisting it is a nationalist patriotic party, but its meteoric rise from a largely marginalized outfit a few years ago to one that won nearly 7 percent in recent elections has alarmed many in Greece and in Europe. In the traditional Parliamentary swearing-in ceremony Thursday, Golden Dawn legislators refused to stand as two Muslim deputies took their oaths on the Quran instead of the Bible.

Young Style

Peter Dziak is 'the Justin Bieber of the Irish dancing world'

By VIKKI ORTIZ HEALY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—Peter Dziak camouflages himself well as a typical 14-year-old kid in the suburbs. He rides his bike to friends' houses. He has a paper route. He plays center field for his hometown Villa Park Vipers.

But watch closely during a down moment, when he's waiting for fly balls in the outfield, and Peter's fancy footwork might give away the eighth-grader's international secret identity.

He's the Justin Bieber of the Irish dancing world.

"Sometimes, you know, just randomly when I'm getting bored, I'll just randomly start dancing," said Peter, who last month brought home the World Irish Dancing Championship title from Dublin for the second straight year.

The accomplishment—comparable to back-to-back Super Bowl wins—required Peter to beat 54 top dancers his age from Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, England, Iceland, Brazil, China, Japan and Russia. It inspired a crowd of Irish-dance fans to greet him at O'Hare International Airport when he returned home with the giant silver trophy, and has prompted girls to rush the stage for his picture or autograph at recent dance performances.

"Peter has really fluid ankles. He's near perfect in the way you're supposed to turn your feet ... and he can lay down some groundfire," said Mark Howard, founder and artistic director of Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, which has six locations in Chicago and the suburbs. "The international circuit loves this kid."

Howard and other teachers at the 30-year-old dance school note that the last Chicago student to win the title for the school was Michael Flatley, aka "Lord of the Dance," in 1976.

Still, on most days, in a metropolitan area with a rich Irish history and long-standing appreciation for Irish dance at parades, taverns and downtown theater shows, the freckle-faced Boy Scout's global renown remains under the radar.

"He's a pretty good friend to have," says Andrew Deardurff, a 13-year-old from Elmhurst who can count on Peter to ride his bike over at least twice a week to shoot air guns in Andrew's yard.

Peter's parents, Joan and Dick Dziak—who are both mostly Irish, with a bit of Polish on Dick's side—began enrolling their seven children in Irish dance more than a decade ago after feeling morally at odds with some of the suggestive moves their elder daughters learned in mainstream ballet, tap and jazz.

The Dziaks (pronounced De Jacques) liked that Irish dance allowed the family an activity they could all drive to together. They danced at the Downers Grove and Elmhurst studios.

Trinity, which has 1,100 students across Chicago, is designed to teach children discipline, but also that it's OK to fail.

"We feel they are not going to remember what they won, but they'll remember how this organization made them feel—the family atmosphere," Howard said.

At Trinity, every child can participate at his or her own pace, Joan Dziak said.

In Peter's case, that pace was to begin winning competitions almost immediately. He won a regional title his first year in 2006, and then again in 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011, and also a national title in 2011.

All the Dziak children have competed, and two of Peter's siblings—older brother Randy, 17, and older sister Ann, 19—have also earned national and international rankings.

Joan Dziak still marvels that her children have excelled so much at the activity for which she buys secondhand costumes and helps raise funds for travel expenses.

"Last year, when Peter won, I thought maybe it was a fluke. But then when he got it twice, I was like, 'Wow, he's really good,'" she joked. "Some of these steps he can do, they're really complicated. And he can remember them, but he can't remember to take the garbage out?"

To that end, Joan, who teaches water aerobics, and Dick, who owns a landscaping company, make efforts to keep all their children down-to-earth and well-rounded. Each of the children is home-schooled, which evolves into part-time attendance at the public high school so they can participate in team sports.

For extra cash, Peter and his 11-year-old sister, Mary Ellen, share a paper route. He and Randy have a summer landscaping business called Randy's Lawn Service—and Peter doesn't mind the omission of his name.

Dick helped his sons build a stage in their backyard for Irish-dance practice. In between travels to Canada, Scotland and Ireland for dance competitions, and the three days each week set aside for dance practice, Peter is also an altar boy at his family's church, a goalie for a youth soccer team, an avid swimmer and a paintball lover. He shares a Chicago Cubs-themed bedroom with Randy and sleeps on the top bunk.

"With home schooling, I also think kids at a young age need to be exposed to a lot of things," said Joan Dziak.

A visitor who meets the Dziak children can see how the approach seems to have worked marvelously. They are quick to take a younger sibling in their lap or get lunch started when the others are hungry.

Rosanne Deardurff, Andrew's mother, said Peter's dance victories haven't gone to his head.

"For all he has performed and his great successes and the notoriety around the world, he's a very modest boy," she said. "He's very humble about all his specialness."

Peter Dziak, 14, performs an Irish dance on a wooden practice floor in his Villa Park, Illinois backyard on Friday, May 11, 2012.
KERI WIGINTON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Is yoga the best choice for a tween-ager?

By HEIDI STEVENS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Your tween daughter is begging to take a weekly yoga class with her friends. Should you steer her toward a sport instead? Here's some parent advice (from our panel of staff contributors):

Once you've checked it out, I'd say let her go for it. As the parent of a girl this age, I think they can benefit from learning anything that increases their focus and ability to calm themselves, which I've found to be one of the great, lasting benefits of yoga. And while team sports are great, I think it's important to promote physical activities that kids can still be doing at age 80. Like yoga.—**Cindy Dampier**

I would think the benefits of yoga would outweigh those of most other activities. Even if your daughter is interested only because her friends are and she's just following the pack, something might click, and she'll become involved in a body/mind practice that she can benefit from long after she'll have lost the ability to kick a soccer ball.—**Bill Hageman**

Teaching children about the mind/body connection, breathing and stretching can have lifelong benefits. Plus there's a fitness component, and it's a great stress reliever. Also, the noncompetitive nature of it can improve self-esteem in kids more than a team sport. And what tween couldn't use a bit of self-esteem?—**Seka Palikuca**

EXPERT ADVICE

Adolescence is actually a prime time for yoga, says Paula Walker, yoga instructor at Miami-based Green Monkey yoga studios, which partners with schools to offer children's yoga classes.

"Self-confidence, self-esteem and self-respect are the three most important things for preteen girls to develop as their bodies are changing," Walker says. "Yoga teaches them to become very in touch with their bodies from the inside out."

Teaching children about the mind/body connection, breathing and stretching can have lifelong benefits.

The breathing techniques, spiritual teachings and mindfulness meditations that accompany the stretches and other physically taxing parts of yoga classes can give tweens the tools they need to navigate any number of stressful situations.

"It teaches you to calm down your nervous system," Walker says. "You learn to calm down your anxiety and panic modes so when you're 13 and you're facing a big test or pressure from the outside world, you can control your breathing and think more clearly."

A few other benefits for tweens, Walker says:

Nutrition awareness: "Yoga becomes a lifestyle that permeates the rest of your life. So when you leave yoga, you're not going to want to go eat at McDonald's. You start to choose all kinds of healthier ways to live."

Connectedness: "It builds a sense of belonging and community with the other people in your class. And preteens can take adult classes, so it's something that moms and daughters and sisters can all do together."

Crossover: "Yoga makes you more flexible and strengthens your core. So if you do ballet or gymnastics, it's a great add-on. If you swim, if you do any other sport, it's going to elevate your skill set."

Posture: "It makes you sit up straighter and roll your shoulder blades back and just be more mindful of your posture." Just in time for prom photos.

HAVE A SOLUTION?

Your spouse wants to break up every fight between your kids. You want them to work out their own differences. Who's right? Email us at parenthood@tribune.com. Find "The Parent 'Hood" page on Facebook, where you can post your parenting questions and offer tips and solutions for others to try.

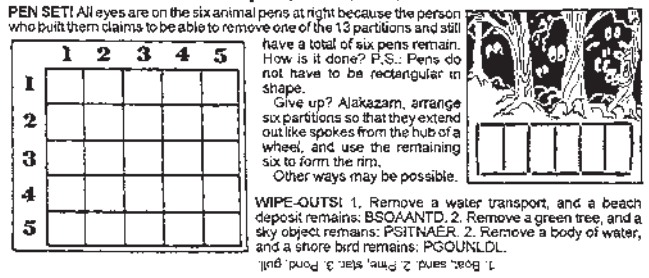
Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

PEN SET! All eyes are on the six animal pens at right because the person who built them claims to be able to remove one of the 13 partitions and still have a total of six pens remain. How is it done? P.S.: Pens do not have to be rectangular in shape.

Give up? Alakazam, arrange six partitions so that they extend out like spokes from the hub of a wheel, and use the remaining six to form the rim.

Other ways may be possible.



WIPE-OUTS! 1. Remove a water transport, and a beach deposit remains: BSOAANTD. 2. Remove a green tree, and a sky object remains: PSITNAER. 2. Remove a body of water, and a shore bird remains: PGOUNLDL.

1. Boat, sand. 2. Pine, star. 3. Pond, gull.

WORD SQUARE CHALLENGE

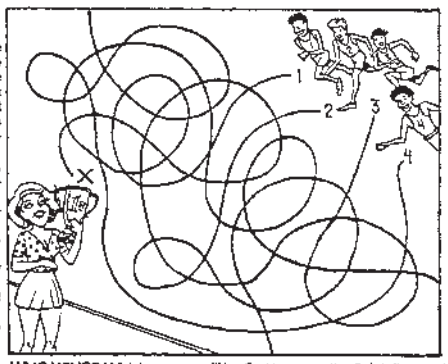
FIVE five-letter words are required to complete the word square exercise above. That is to say, you are to find five words that will read the same both across and down. Definitions are as follows:

1. Sudden explosion, as when a spacecraft is launched.
2. Midday event (or adventure?) at school.
3. Wild and stormy, as the sea at times.
4. Take leave in a hurry (sl.).
5. Fragrant herb used in seasoning.

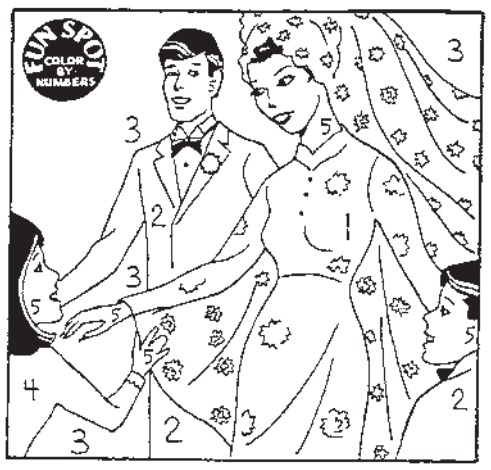
Remember, words are to read across and down.

Time limit: 2 minutes.

1. Blast. 2. Lunch. 3. Angry. 4. Scram. 5. Thyme.



WHO WINS? Which runner will be first to cross the finish line — 1, 2, 3, or 4? Trace path to see if your choice wins.



SEE, HERE! Here are the newlyweds, let us wish them well. Use crayons or colored pencils to add colors by number: 1—Pink. 2—Dk. blue. 3—Yellow. 4—Green. 5—Flesh tones.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

EARNINGS

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible twosome: Snag, rear.

Puzzle from the collection of Tribune Media Services

Drawings by Henry Boltinoff

Premeasuring helps overweight dogs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have a suggestion to help owners solve their dogs' weight problems. People tend to overfeed their dogs because their "cup" tends to just be grabbed out of a dog food bag. So their 1/2 cup, etc. tends to be more like 3/4 cup or so.

I took a soft-drink carton holding 24 cups. I sit down every two weeks and premeasure the amount I want to feed my dogs. This way I can just grab a cup at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. and know it's the right amount. And it is so easy this way! My dogs used to be overweight until I started this system.—Dwayne O., via email

DEAR DAN: Great idea! While some breeds are a bit stocky and others are prone to obesity, owners can exert control over the amount of calories their dogs consume and the amount of exercise they get.

Keep in mind that the size of your dog -- small, medium, or large frame, for example -- is a consideration in exactly how much it should eat and how often. Talk to your veterinarian about the amount of food it should get, and stick to that diet. Be careful how often treats are given out, and of course, don't feed your dog under the table or give it leftovers.

Exercise is another important component of weight loss -- one that benefits both you and your dog. This can take the form of twice-daily walks, as well as play time and training time. Schedule at least an hour each day to turn off the TV and turn your attention 100 percent to your dog. You'll both love it!

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ It was, unsurprisingly, comedian and writer W.C. Fields who said, "I am free of all prejudices. I hate everyone equally."

■ Even if you haven't heard the They Might Be Giants song "Istanbul (Not Constantinople)" you are probably aware that the Turkish metropolis has undergone name changes throughout its long history. It seems that when the name was Constantinople, it was common for residents of the area to refer to things "in the city," which in the Aegean dialect of Greek is pronounced "is tan polin." Eventually the name stuck, and in 1930 Turkish authorities formally adopted the name Istanbul.

■ The giant squid has the distinction of possessing the largest eyes of any animal -- they're as big as pie plates.

■ For a queen bee, laying 3,000 eggs is all in a day's work.

■ Evidencing a drastic change in the nature of the United States since its agrarian beginnings, today only a quarter of Americans live in rural areas.

■ The next time you're in the jungle observing gorillas, be sure to notice if one sticks out its tongue. That means it's angry.

■ In the filming of the original "Star Trek" television series, the ship's transporter was used simply to cut costs. With it, characters could move from one set to another without having to shoot costly landing scenes. As a side note, the sparkling effect that could be seen when characters were transported was created by aluminum dust.

■ If you're like the average American, you'll eat nine pounds of peanuts this year.

■ Those who study such things say you're more likely to be bitten by a mosquito if you've just eaten a banana.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Eminent posts make great men greater, and little men less." -- Jean de la Bruyere

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MAGIC MAZE ● SWITCHING FIRST AND LAST LETTER MAKES A NEW WORD

Y F B X U Q M J F B Y U R O K
H D A X U Q N K H E B Y V S P
M J H E B Y V L T Q O L I G D
B Y W T R P R A L M K I F S D
B Y W U D S D E A R Q O M E K
S I D F D O H D V B Z X W L U
S E Q E O C R E S I G N E D O
N L L M T J H P F D E C A N Y
T N U A W S P M U L S C V I T
S Q S E M P U A S C I P E W N
L K I T H F F R U S E C B D Z

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Aunt	Epics	Ramped	Slump
Deal	Males	Resigned	Surf
Deceiver	Mood	Rusted	Team
Dwindles	Prod	Satchel	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		×		9
×		×		÷	
	−		×		9
÷		+		+	
	−		+		9
1		6		9	

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9

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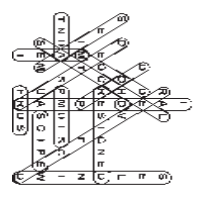
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



SWITCHING FIRST AND LAST LETTER MAKES A NEW WORD

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	6		9		1
9	6	+	5	−	8
	+		+		÷
9	3	×	1	−	4
	÷		×		×
9	6	×	1	−	2

Traditions bring families together

Donna's Day — Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

"I've just set the timer for 18 minutes," said Karen Helfand to her 9-year-old daughter, Rachel, and Rachel's friend Claire. That was the cue for the girls to dump and pour the measured flour and water on the counter and mix the simple dough with their hands to make matzo for Passover earlier this spring. They were learning that it's all about "time" as they prepared and baked the dough in haste -- just as it was done by the Israelites thousands of years ago in the land of Egypt when they escaped slavery and fled for safety in a hurry.

"We want our daughters to have a Passover Seder to remember," said Claire's mom, Patty Diamond, program director of Mayim Rabim Congregation in Minneapolis. "When extended families gather around their tables and the plate with the horseradish (representing the bitterness of slavery) is served with matzo, the children will connect personally having measured, mixed and manipulated the unleavened dough themselves. Passover is our tradition, and we pass it on to our daughters, just as our mothers did for us."

Traditions, whether religious or otherwise, can bring a sense of special identity to family life. And the good news is that just about anything your family enjoys doing together can become a special ritual that keeps you close. And those rituals will no doubt have a few simple things in common: They are easy to do, you share them with your children, and they give you a "we." "In our family 'we' always go fishing on Father's Day, or 'we' always make sandcastles and a bonfire at the beach on the Fourth of July." You might think of traditions as a mosaic of your family's soul. They say who you are, where you are and where you come from.

Encase special life events and start calling them your own this spring and summer. These traditions bear repetition not only because they are fun, but also because you rekindle the wonder of relationships and family by doing them again and again.

As you fill your family calendar with kids' camps, gardening, ballgames, outings and vacations, think about how you can make a trip or activity a special tradition, a "we" event that defines who you are. Remember, a family tradition doesn't have to cost a lot of money or be elaborate. In fact, it's the simple and silly ideas that are often treasured most. Pass them along from year to year and watch your family story become a living gift to your children.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

The ABCs of chalkboard projects

By STACY DOWNS
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Chalkboards may be old-school, but they're the newest accent in home decor.

"Look what I made," said Kelly Sims of Liberty, Mo., holding up her smartphone during an unofficial show and tell during a chalkboard paint class at Be Here Now, a store in Independence, Mo. She flipped through pics: A picnic basket with a chalkboard top for playfully listing its contents. An old mirror converted into a message board. The fronts of a few kitchen cabinets for meal planning and writing quotes.

Sims finds pieces in thrift stores, garage sales and even the trash, then transforms them with chalkboard paint into gifts and home-entertaining accessories.

Sims may be a kindergarten teacher, but she was a pupil that Thursday night in chalkboard paint class. The instructor was Meredith Martin, an interior designer who lectured on how to mix custom colors and what you can make with it.

Results included a table setting with a chalkboard-painted paper runner and flower pots with chalkboard labels. Next to her sat a chalkboard-painted desk, storage boxes and a child's play table. She led the class in a craft project, a large metal charger with the decorative border taped off. With paint, the center of the charger became a chalkboard.

Here's an array of chalkboard paint information:

■ Apply paint thickly with a foam craft brush for small pieces or a regular paintbrush for furniture and walls. For glass bottles, apply thinly. Spray cans of chalkboard paint are available.

■ Black—as in blackboard—is the most typical color of chalkboard paint, but it can be any color.

■ Chalkboard markers, available at craft stores and at Chalk Ink (chalkinkworldstore.com), are an alternative to dusty, smearing chalk.

■ Decals with chalkboard surfaces are another way to go if you don't want to commit to paint. Large-format shapes include rectangles, squares, airplanes and coffee cups, to name a few at All Modern (allmodern.com). Little labels are available at Martha Stewart Home Office with Avery at Staples (staples.com).

■ Erasers like you had in elementary school are adorable. But if you want the surface to be super clean, see Letter T (clean it with a damp cloth).

■ Furniture, such as the top of a desk or a dining table, works well for chalkboard paint. But the paint can be used on the entire piece. Artist Tiffini Killgore painted a dresser with chalkboard paint and wrote the names of Kansas City neighborhoods on the drawers in chalk.

■ Good gifts can be made with chalkboard paint. Paint an empty wine bottle, et voila! A vase. Great gift tags, too, can be crafted. The best part: they're reusable.

■ How to mix your own chalkboard paint: buy your favorite color of latex paint, says interior designer Meredith Martin (she used a no-VOC variety). Buy unsanded grout ($3 from a hardware store). For a gallon of paint, mix in a quart of grout. (The ratio should be two-thirds paint to one-third grout). Stir. Add drops of water to make it thinner. After painting, allow to dry an hour. Often only one coat is needed.

■ Idea for parties: use a chalkboard-style oilcloth as a runner on the table. Give guests chalk or chalk pens and tell them to go to town.

■ Jot down anything on a chalkboard surface. It can be erased.

■ Kraft paper can be covered with chalkboard paint to create a tablecloth. Great for writing pairing suggestions for tasting parties.

■ Let your kids draw on the walls. No problem with a chalkboard or chalkboard paint.

■ Make a Monday-through-Friday message board out of an old five-panel door using chalkboard paint in the panels.

■ New idea: painting the surface of a deck with chalkboard paint.

■ Obvious choice: cheese trays. Not so obvious: your car. (We've spotted a VW Bug).

■ Pictures on Pinterest.com are inspiring us. We especially love walls with chalk drawings, such as a family tree in a nursery. A hint for precise outlines: rent a projector and create a transparency at a print shop.

■ Quotes on chalkboards = instant inspiration.

■ Resources for chalkboard paint include craft stores, home warehouses, paint shops and Be Here Now, Independence, Mo., 816-461-7819, b-here-now.com. Be Here Now also sells chalkboard paint in a variety of colors by the pint, $15.

■ Spray surfaces with polyurethane to make chalk-art creations permanent.

MCT
Chalkboards may be old-school, but they're the newest accent in home decor.

■ Tired of the mess or the design? The best way to clean it is with a damp cloth.

■ Understand that when you apply chalkboard paint, it goes on gritty. When it dries, sand surfaces with 150-grit sandpaper before you first write on them.

■ Variety. Think beyond white chalk on a blackboard. Chalk comes in a crayon-assortment of colors these days; Crayola has a 52-count pack.

■ Wet chalk is a secret for creating large-format designs, says Annie Huff, the 18-year-old daughter of Restoration Emporium owner Chrysalyn Huff. Annie Huff does chalkboard creations on doors and walls at the store. She dunks sidewalk chalk in a bucket of water. "It doesn't look like anything when it's wet on the surface, but then it dries vibrantly."

■ Xpiration date of chalkboard paint: Six months from date of purchase or after it's mixed. (Yes, creative spelling is permitted on creative chalkboards.)

■ Yummy surface for appetizer trays? To be on the safe side, use a nontoxic food-safe clear coat (available at craft stores) on top of chalkboard painted plates and platters.

■ Zero writing. Chalkboard surfaces look great even with nothing on them. They're full of possibilities.

Pruning tips

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Q: I haven't pruned many of my hedges and trees in several years, and some of them have grown wild and ragged-looking. If they're past the blooming stage, is it safe to trim them? Also, any tips to make this task easier?—Carol in Oklahoma

A: Trying to tackle all of the shrubbery and trees in your yard can be daunting, even when it hasn't been several years since their last pruning. The best thing to do is take an initial tour of your yard with notebook in hand. Mentally split the yard into several sections, and then note what needs to be done in each: trimming, pruning or even removal of foliage.

Next, tackle each section one at a time. Depending on your schedule, you may need to do one section each day. A particularly foliage-heavy section may take an entire weekend. You might need help from friends or relatives to take care of large or excessively high hedges, meaning you'll need to plan a time for them to come over. And if a tree needs complex trimming—for example, its branches are encroaching on the roof or on power lines—you'll need to arrange for a professional tree trimmer to inspect it, provide an estimate and do the work.

Pruning on your own takes a little practice, but don't worry too much about mistakes, as they will eventually grow out. Plants that have already bloomed can be pruned without a problem, and plants or trees that are still blooming are, by this time of year, safe to trim.

As you'll likely be piling up a lot of branches and limbs, check with your local government about proper disposal of yard waste. Most have programs in place, such as scheduled pickup dates during the growing season, and guidelines for containers or bags that the trimmed branches should be placed in. If you hire a tree trimmer, be sure to ask how branches will be disposed of, and if that cost is included in the estimate.

home tip

HOME TIP: Keep hedge and tree-trimming equipment sharp, clean and lightly oiled so that they cut branches cleanly and efficiently.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

In Loving Memory of Our Dearly Beloved

† ANTONIA TAITANO PINAULA DELEON GUERRERO

better known as "Antonian (Tona) Apu"
August 31, 1936 - May 11, 2012
Called to her eternal rest by our Lord at 75 years old

Our dearly beloved now joins her heavenly family and will be greeted in her new life by:
Mother: Theresa T. Pinaula
Father: Antonio T. Pinaula
Sisters & Brothers-In-Law: Ninfa P. & Nicholas A. Rabago, Carmen P. & Vicente Mareham, Rosa P. & Carlos Calvo, Dolores P. & Phillip Muna
Brothers & Sister-In-Laws: Jose T. & Ana P. Pinaula, Juan T. Pinaula, Jesus T. Pinaula, Isidro T. Pinaula
Son: Jose P. Deleon Guerrero
Grandson: Jose Anthony A. Deleon Guerrero
Son-in-Law: Thomas C. Barcinas
Mother-In-Law: Nicolasa Q. Deleon Guererro
Father-in-Law: Juan R. Deleon Guererro
Brother-in-Laws: †Gregorio M. Quitugua, Gregorio Q. Deleon Guerrero, Juan Q. Deleon Guerrero, Luis T. Castro

She will be dearly missed by her:
Husband: Jose "Ankoi" Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren
Debra P. & Edward T. Diaz; Edward P. & Tanya S. Diaz (Tiannah, Tasya, Edward), Roxanne P. Diaz & Daniel S. Camacho (Keona, Kelvin, Kesiil, Daniel), Donovan P. Castro
Marsha P. & †Thomas C. Barcinas; Imelda B. & Gerry C. Benavente (Leah, Thomas), Melisha B. & Shawn D. San Nicolas (Auriah Antonia), Lyzandra P. Barcinas & Raymond Borja (Tyleray), Heather P. Barcinas, Tawny P. Barcinas & Francis S. Buniag, Royce P. Barcinas, Claire P. Barcinas & Alfonso A Mendiola (Evan)
†Jose P. Deleon Guerrero
Joseph P. & Mercedes Q. Deleon Guerrero; Joseph Q. Deleon Guerrero & Amanda Harbster (Joseph Peter Lizama), Jeffrey Q. Deleon Guerrero & Tazyha Passi (Noah Grey P. Deleon Guerrero), Lance Q. Deleon Guerrero, Anthony Q. Deleon Guerrero
Shirlina P. & Donald T. Flores; Francisco DLG. Flores, Shevonne DLG. Flores, Zachary DLG. Flores, Sherraine DLG. Flores
Gregory P. Deleon Guerrero; Gregory A. Deleon Guerrero, †Jose Anthony A. Deleon Guerrero, Dionne A. Deleon Guerrero, Latisha A. Deleon Guerrero, Gavin A. Deleon Guerrero
Albert P. Deleon Guerrero; Christina DLG. & Manny Tenorio, Rachel F. Deleon Guerrero & April P. Rios (Riana), Albert F. Deleon Guerrero, Lyle F. Deleon Guerrero, Tory B. Deleon Guerrero, Tyron B. Deleon Guerrero, Rynie B. Deleon Guerrero, Christopher L. Deleon Guerrero, Chrystal L. Deleon Guerrero
Arvin P. & Marissa T. Deleon Guerrero; Cassandra M. Deleon Guerrero, Tiana Hope Toves, Ha'Ane T. Deleon Guerrero, Arvin T. Deleon Guerrero
Leonard P. Deleon Guerrero & Amor D. Sorius; Leo S. Deleon Guerrero, Leanne S. Deleon Guerrero, Lawrence S. Deleon Guerrero

In-laws
†Gregorio M. & Louise B. Quitugua, Herman Q. & Lucia A. Deleon Guerrero, Jesus Q. & Juanita C. Deleon Guerrero, †Gregorio Q. Deleon Guerrero, †Juan Q. & Ines R. Deleon Guerrero, Maria DLG. & Jaime A. Sasamoto, Pedro Q. & Buhay (Gie) Deleon Guerrero, Francisco Q. & Barbara P. Deleon Guerrero, Margarita DLG. & †Luis T. Castro, Theresita B. & Leo O. Pertudo

Caregiver
*Josielene A. Benamer

On Saturday, May 12th to the 19th, holy mass is being offered at 6 am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.
On May 13th and May 20th, mass will be offered at 9 am.
Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30 pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.
On Monday, May 21st, the body of our dearly beloved will leave the Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 am and will be escorted to the Mount Carmel Cathedral.
Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11am and followed by interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

Disco Queen Donna Summer dies at 63

NEW YORK (AP)—Like the King of Pop or the Queen of Soul, Donna Summer was bestowed a title fitting of musical royalty—the Queen of Disco.

Yet unlike Michael Jackson or Aretha Franklin, it was a designation she wasn't comfortable embracing.

"I grew up on rock `n' roll," Summer once said when explaining her reluctance to claim the title.

Indeed, as disco boomed then crashed in a single decade in the 1970s, Summer, the beautiful voice and face of the genre with pulsating hits like "I Feel Love," "Love to Love You Baby" and "Last Dance," would continue to make hits incorporating the rock roots she so loved. One of her biggest hits, "She Works Hard for the Money," came in the early 1980s and relied on a smoldering guitar solo as well as Summer's booming voice.

Yet it was with her disco anthems that she would have the most impact in music, and it's how she was remembered Thursday as news spread of her death at age 63.

Summer died of cancer Thursday morning in Naples, Fla., said her publicist Brian Edwards. Her family released a statement saying they "are at peace celebrating her extraordinary life and her continued legacy."

Luminaries from Aretha Franklin to Dolly Parton and Barbra Streisand mourned the loss, as did President Barack Obama, who said he and Michelle were saddened to hear of the passing of the five-time Grammy winner. "Her voice was unforgettable, and the music industry has lost a legend far too soon," he said. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to Donna's family and her dedicated fans."

It had been decades since that brief, flashy moment when Summer was every inch the Disco Queen.

Her glittery gowns and long eyelashes. Her luxurious hair and glossy, open lips. Her sultry vocals, her bedroom moans and sighs. She was as much a part of the culture as disco balls, polyester, platform shoes and the music's pulsing, pounding rhythms.

Summer's music gave voice to not only a musical revolution, but a cultural one—a time when sex, race, fashion and drugs were being explored and exploited with freedom like never before in the United States.

Her rise was inseparable from disco's itself, even though she remained popular for years after the genre she helped invent had died. She won a Grammy for best rock vocal performance for "Hot Stuff," a fiery guitar-based song that represented her shift from disco to more rock-based sounds, and created another kind of anthem with "She Works Hard for the Money," this time for women's rights.

Elton John said in a statement that Summer was more than the Queen of Disco.

"Her records sound as good today as they ever did. That she has never been inducted into the Rock `n' Roll Hall of Fame is a total disgrace especially when I see the second-rate talent that has been inducted," he said. "She is a great friend to me and to the Elton John AIDS Foundation and I will miss her greatly."

Summer may not have liked the title and later became a born-again Christian, but many remembered her best for her early years, starting with the sinful "Love to Love You Baby."

Released in 1975, a breakthrough hit for Summer and for disco, it was a legend of studio ecstasy and the genre's ultimate sexual anthem. Summer came up with the idea of the song and first recorded it as a demo in 1975, on the condition that another singer perform it commercially. But Casablanca Records president Neil Bogart liked the track so much that he suggested to producer Giorgio Morodor they re-record it, and make it longer—what would come to be known as a "disco disc."

Summer had reservations about the lyrics—"Do it to me again and again"—but imagined herself as a movie star playing a part as if she were Marilyn Monroe. So she agreed to sing, lying down on the studio floor, in darkness, and letting her imagination take over. Solo and multi-tracked, she whispered, she groaned, she crooned. Drums, bass, strings and keyboards answered her cries. She simulated climax so many times that the BBC kept count: 23, in 17 minutes.

What started as a scandal became a classic. The song was later sampled by LL Cool J, Timbaland and Beyonce, who interpolated the hit for her jam "Naughty Girl." It was also Summer's U.S. chart debut and the first of 19 No. 1 dance hits between 1975 and 2008—second only to Madonna.

Summer, real name LaDonna Adrian Gaines, was born in 1948 in Boston. She was raised on gospel music and became the soloist in her church choir by age 10.

"There was no question I would be a singer, I just always knew. I had credit in my neighborhood, people would lend me money and tell me to pay it back when I got famous," Summer said in a 1989 interview with The Associated Press.

Before disco, she had already reinvented herself several times. She sang Motown songs with local groups in Boston as a teenager, then dropped out of school in the late 1960s and switched to pyschedelic rock after hearing Janis Joplin. An attempt to get a part in the musical "Hair" led her to get the principal role in Munich. She stayed in Germany for five years, worked in other productions and modeled.

Meanwhile, she was performing in operas, singing backup for Three Dog Night and other groups and releasing songs of her own. A marriage to Helmuth Sommer didn't last, but the singer did hold on to her ex-husband's last name, changing it to "Summer." By 1974, she had met producers Giorgio Moroder and Pete Bellotte and released her first album, "Lady of the Night," to success in Europe.

Then came "Love to Love You Baby," her memorable U.S. debut. Through the rest of the disco era she burned up the charts: She was the only artist to have three consecutive double-LPs hit No. 1, "Live and More," "Bad Girls" and "On the Radio." She was also the first female artist with four No. 1 singles in a 13-month period, according to the Rock Hall of Fame, where she was a nominee this year but was passed over.

Musically, she began to change in 1979 with "Hot Stuff," which had a tough, rock `n' roll beat. Her diverse sound helped her earn Grammy Awards in the dance, rock, R&B and inspirational categories.

Summer said grew up on rock `n' roll and later covered the Bruce Springsteen song "Protection."

"I like the Moody Blues, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones as well as Aretha Franklin, Dionne Warwick, the Supremes and Temptations," she said. "I didn't know many white kids who didn't know the Supremes; I don't know many black kids who don't know the Moody Blues."

Warwick said in a statement that she was sad to lose a great performer and "dear friend."

"My heart goes out to her husband and her children," Warwick said. "Prayers will be said to keep them strong."

Summer later became a born-again Christian and was accused of making anti-gay comments in relation to the AIDS epidemic—a particular problem for a woman who was and remains a gay icon. Summer denied making the comments, but became the target of a boycott.

Religion played an important role in her later life, said Michael Levine, who briefly worked as her publicist.

"Her passion in her life, besides music, was God, spirituality and religion. She held a bible study class at her home every week," he said.

Summer released her last album, "Crayons," in 2008. It was her first full studio album in 17 years. She also performed on "American Idol" that year with its top female contestants.

Summer is survived by her husband, Bruce Sudano, and three daughters, Brooklyn, Mimi and Amanda.

In this Dec. 11, 2009 file photo, Donna Summer performs at the conclusion of the Nobel Peace concert in Oslo, Norway.

AP

Celebrities react to the death of Donna Summer

"Michelle and I were saddened to hear about the passing of Donna Summer. A five-time Grammy Award winner, Donna truly was the "Queen of Disco." Her voice was unforgettable, and the music industry has lost a legend far too soon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Donna's family and her dedicated fans."—President Barack Obama.

"So shocking to hear about the passing of Donna Summer. In the 70s, she reigned over the disco era and kept the disco jumping. Who will forget 'Last Dance.' A fine performer and a very nice person."—Aretha Franklin.

"I was shocked to hear about Donna. She was so vital the last time I saw her a few months ago. I loved doing the duet with her. She had an amazing voice and was so talented. It's so sad."—Barbra Streisand.

"Rest in Peace dear Donna Summer. Your voice was the heartbeat and soundtrack of a decade."—Quincy Jones, via Twitter.

"We will miss Donna Summer! She changed the world of music with her beautiful voice and incredible talent."—Janet Jackson.

"I can't believe we've lost another wonderful singer. Donna, like Whitney, had one of the greatest voices ever. I loved her records. She was the disco queen, and will remain so. I knew her and found her to be one of the most likable and fun people ever. She will be missed and remembered."—Dolly Parton.

"When you lose a friend you feel like they are gone forever.that is not true with my dear friend Donna. She was a queen, THE Queen of Disco, and we will be dancing to her music forever."—Liza Minnelli.

"Wow, another legend gone. Rest in peace to the beautiful disco queen Donna Summer."—Nicki Minaj, via Twitter.

"Donna and I had a friendship for over 30 years. She is one of the few black women I could speak German with and she is one of the few friends I had in this business."—Chaka Khan.

"I remember sitting in the front seat of my mom's Toyota while she sang Donna Summer's 'she works hard for the money' ... songs were just classic."—Ryan Seacrest, via Twitter.

"She not only made her mark in my heart as well as others, but she forever changed the way of how America danced and enjoyed themselves. She may have had her 'Last Dance' here on earth, but 'Heaven Knows' it is dancing with joy for her arrival."—Gloria Gaynor.

"So sad to hear about Donna Summer. I adored her voice. May she rest in peace."—Joan Collins, via Twitter.

"Another one of my vocal idols has passed... RIP Donna Summer."—Fergie, of the Black Eyed Peas.

"Few singers have impacted music & the world like Donna Summer! It's the end of an era. Peace & prayers 2 all who loved her."—Gloria Estefan, who posted a photo of herself with Summer on Twitter.

"She defined dance music in the 70's and had a wonderful voice and personality."—"So You Think You Can Dance" creator and "American Idol" producer Nigel Lythgoe, via Twitter.

"When I was starting I toured frequently with Donna Summer as her opening act, I'll never forget the sheer power of her voice or her kindness."—Garry Shandling, on Twitter.

"She will forever be a music legend and I am grateful I've had the opportunity to perform one of her biggest hits on Broadway."—Nick Adams, who sings Summer's hit "Hot Stuff" on Broadway in "Priscilla Queen of the Desert, The Musical."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights in the career of singer Donna Summer, the Queen of Disco, who died Thursday at age 63:

1975 Donna Summer releases her breakthrough song, "Love to Love You Baby." A sexy track punctuated with breathy sighs, it launched Summer's career and was the first of her 19 No. 1 dance hits.

1979 Summer becomes the first woman to score four No. 1 singles in a single year: "MacArthur Park," "Hot Stuff," "Bad Girls" and "No More Tears" (with Barbra Streisand). Two of those—"Hot Stuff" and "Bad Girls"—were simultaneously in the Hot 100 Singles top 3, another first for a female singer. Summer also wins a Grammy award for female rock vocal for "Hot Stuff."

1983 Summer returns to the top of the music charts with "She Works Hard for the Money." A track off of that album, "He's a Rebel," won a Grammy for best inspirational performance the following year.

1997 Summer wins her fifth Grammy for "Carry On," a dance track that reunited her with producer Giorgio Moroder, her partner on her breakthrough hit.

2008 "Crayons," Summer's first full studio album in 17 years, is released. The singer also performed on "American Idol" with its top female contestants.

Larry King says talk show to resume this summer

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry King said Thursday that his talk show will resume this summer on the new digital network Ora.TV, earlier than he or the network had anticipated.

The show "Larry King Now" will mark the startup of the network financed by Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim. Executives had originally intended to launch in the fall.

But King said he wanted to "get into the political mix." The Democratic and Republican national conventions to name presidential nominees are this summer.

King said he expected the format of his show to be similar to "Larry King Live," which aired on CNN in prime time for 25 years, and he's retained much of his old production staff. The new show will generally be 30 minutes in length, instead of an hour, although there will be flexibility to go shorter or longer depending on who's being interviewed, said Jon Housman, Ora.TV's CEO.

Fresh episodes will be posted online about 5 or 6 p.m., as opposed to the 9 p.m. start time of King's TV show, although viewers will be able to watch it whenever they want.

King, who's 78, said he misses the nightly show.

"The night I missed it the most, when it really hit me, was the night Osama bin Laden was killed," he said, adding his show would have spent a week on the topic.

Ora.TV said it expects King's show to set the tone for a network that will largely consist of talk shows. It will be available in multiple ways online, through streaming and apps, and at several locations beyond Ora.TV's own website. Housman said he was not ready Thursday to announce any specific distribution deals, but said it will be made clear before "Larry King Now" starts the various ways it will be available.

Ora.TV is laying the groundwork for King's return through efforts to make him available in ventures where younger people who might be more inclined to watch a digital network will see him. For instance, King has a new skit that will be made available on the website Funny or Die next week.

King wouldn't pinpoint a guest for the first night of his new show but said he's shooting high—aiming for President Barack Obama or Mitt Romney. He said he still expects to book quality guests because of his long relationships in the business, even though a digital network has less visibility than traditional TV.

"It's not Harvey Glick saying `please come on the Harvey Glick show,'" he said.

Five top models-turned-actors

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Everyone in Hollywood wants to be a multi-hyphenate, right? Everyone wants to show they can do it all. A key figure in that tradition is the model-turned-actor. Maybe they wanted to act but had to take modeling gigs first; maybe they modeled first but wanted to prove they were more than just a pretty face.

Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Brooklyn Decker continues her crossover this week with supporting roles in two very different films: "Battleship" and "What to Expect When You're Expecting." There are countless other examples of performers who've done this, but here's a look at five who've staked out serious careers in front of both kinds of camera.

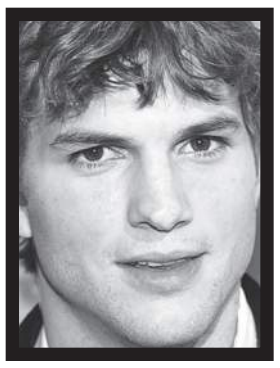
■ MILLA JOVOVICH

Born in Kiev, she was spotted at age 11 by famed photographer Richard Avedon, who featured her in Revlon's "Most Unforgettable Women in the World" ads. Jovovich went on to appear on dozens of magazine covers and in campaigns for several brands including Banana Republic, Donna Karan, Gap and Versace. But she's also carved out a major acting career as star of the sci-fi "Resident Evil" series (directed by her husband, Paul W.S. Anderson) and has appeared in films as varied as "The Fifth Element" "He Got Game" and "Stone." But she still keeps a hand in fashion, in recent years serving as co-designer for the clothing line Jovovich-Hawk and sitting in the front row of shows for Chanel, John Galliano and Nina Ricci. (Jovovich also recorded her first album when she was just 16. But that's a whole 'nother list.)

■ CHARLIZE THERON

The statuesque stunner from South Africa started modeling in Milan at 16. She later moved to New York to train as a ballerina, but a knee injury forced her to quit dancing and nudged her toward acting. Since then, she's shown a fearlessness in her choices and an eagerness to play parts that are less than beautiful on the outside (her Oscar-winning performance as a frumpy serial killer in "Monster") as well as on the inside (her blistering portrayal of a delusional former prom queen in "Young Adult"). In recent years, she's been watching others walk the runway at Fashion Week shows including Rag & Bone and she's been the face of Christian Dior's J'adore perfume.

■ ASHTON KUTCHER



The 6-foot-2 Kutcher dropped out of the University of Iowa, where he'd planned to study biochemical engineering, after an agent recruited him at a bar to take part in a modeling competition. He ended up winning first place and went on to work the catwalks in New York, Milan and Paris. Kutcher made his name playing dumb pretty-boy roles on the TV series "That '70s Show" and in movies like "Dude, Where's My Car?" But as any of the nearly 10.7 million Twitter followers of (at)aplusk can attest, he's got more substantive matters on his mind. Now he's replaced Charlie Sheen on the unfathomably popular "Two and a Half Men" and he's about to play the late Apple founder Steve Jobs in an upcoming biopic.

■ TYRESE GIBSON

He grew up in South Central Los Angeles but burst onto the pop-culture scene as a teenager singing "Always Coca-Cola" in a 1994 commercial. Soon afterward, Tommy Hilfiger himself picked the gorgeous Gibson to be the face of his brand; he's also modeled for Guess? jeans. Gibson is actually a model-turned-singer-turned-actor, having released several R&B albums. After making his acting debut in John Singleton's "Baby Boy," he found himself with recurring roles in a couple of heavy-duty franchises: all three "Transformers" films and a couple of the "Fast and the Furious" movies. In "2 Fast 2 Furious," he had the daunting task of replacing Vin Diesel as Paul Walker's sidekick and he oozed charisma from every pore of his flawlessly sculpted physique.

■ KIM BASINGER

She was a Breck Girl—that alone qualifies her for this list. A former Georgia pageant queen, she signed a contract with the Ford modeling agency and appeared on several magazine covers in the '70s. Since then she's been ... well, she's been Kim Basinger: blonde, beautiful, glamorous. She's been a Bond girl (in "Never Say Never Again") and had the contents of a refrigerator poured all over her (in "9 1/2 Weeks"). She's played the Caped Crusader's girlfriend (in the 1989 "Batman") and Eminem's mom (in "8 Mile"). And in 1998, she won the Academy Award for best supporting actress for her portrayal of the quintessential hooker with a heart of gold in "L.A. Confidential," beating out then-87-year-old Gloria Stuart, who was considered the favorite for "Titanic."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Prosecutors charge man with stalking Mila Kunis

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors have charged a man with stalking Mila Kunis and violating a restraining order that was issued after he broke into a vacant condo owned by the actress. Stuart Lynn Dunn is scheduled to be arraigned Friday in Los Angeles on two stalking-related felony charges. He is being held on $190,000 bail. The 27-year-old has been arrested twice this year for trying to contact and meet the "That `70s Show" and "Black Swan" star. In February, a judge ordered Dunn to stay away from Kunis after he was found living in a vacant condo unit owned by the star. He had repeatedly tried to contact her before that arrest, and he was arrested earlier this month outside her gym.

Van Halen postpones summer concert dates

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Van Halen is postponing some dates on its summer concert tour. A source familiar with the tour who was not authorized to speak publicly confirmed to The Associated Press that some of the group's long-scheduled performances this summer are being postponed. The band's website lists active tour dates through June 26. Dozens of additional shows had been planned and there was no immediate reason given for the postponements. Representatives of the band and AEG, which is promoting the concerts in some regions, did not respond to messages from the AP on Thursday.

Teen's anti-cursing crusade causes her friend to cry foul

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 19 and have a dear friend, "Emily," who is offended by cussing. She literally has never said a curse word in her life. When I'm around her I never use swear words because I respect her and her friendship.

My issue is that Emily gets very upset if people swear around her. There have been nights that she ended up in tears because someone used foul language. She also angrily confronts people on this issue.

I commend my friend on her decision not to curse, but I think it's unrealistic of her to expect everyone in the world to bend to her morals. I also think it's wrong for her to try to force them. Abby, what are your thoughts?

CHALLENGED FRIEND IN LARAMIE, WYO.

DEAR CHALLENGED: If Emily prefers not to be in the company of people who use four-letter words, that's her privilege. And if she finds it offensive, she has a right to speak up and make it known. But to "wind up in tears" because someone used foul language—as long as it wasn't directed toward her—is overreacting. And for her to angrily confront someone about it would only invite more of the same. Emily will be much happier if she spends more time in the company of people who feel as she does.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Gina," is engaged but hasn't started making any plans yet. We have had some rough mother/daughter years but are now in a good place. When it's time, I would like my daughter to ask me to help her pick out her wedding gown. I have a strong hunch that Gina will ask a girlfriend instead. I also know that if I talk to her about my wishes, she'll say, "Sure" or ask me to join her friends. This may seem silly, but I want her to want just me to go. What do you think is the best way to handle this?

MOTHER OF THE BRIDE

DEAR MOTHER: Your relationship with your daughter may be better now, but its pattern was established years ago. You appear to be extremely invested in an "ideal" of how her wedding will be. For your own sake, lower your expectations. You can't make somebody want something if it doesn't come naturally. Because Gina isn't a mind reader, speak up now for that exclusive mother/daughter shopping jaunt. If she likes your fashion sense, she may agree. However, it is not unusual for a bride to include not only her mother, but also her attendants and future mother-in-law when choosing her wedding dress.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend bought his house two years ago. We were fortunate to have found such a darling little place. It was owned by only one woman since it was built in the 1950s. She is now deceased, and we have no way of contacting anyone in her family.

For the last two years my boyfriend has received greeting cards from an old friend of the former owner. What should we do about the greeting cards? I feel terrible that he doesn't know the woman who lived here is no longer with us.

STEPHANIE IN URBANA, ILL.

DEAR STEPHANIE: I know you and your boyfriend have the best of intentions, but according to the post office, whether there is a return address on the envelope or not, you should write "deceased" on the envelope and let the Postal Service handle the matter.

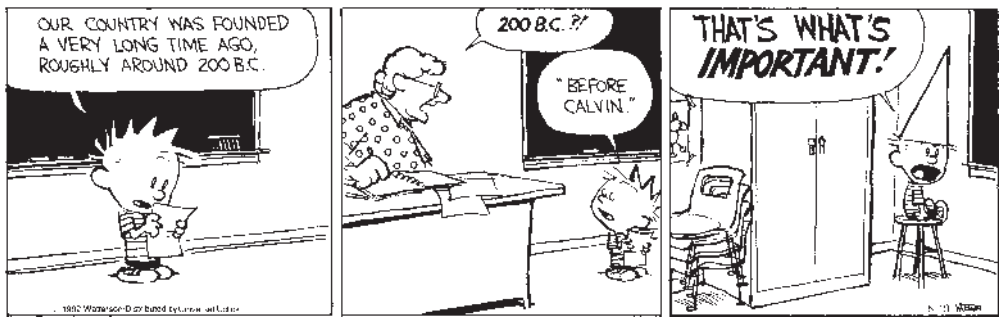
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M ALL ABOUT MY BEAUTY
STOMP
STOMP
SHOULD HAVE MADE A BACKUP PLAN
JIM DAVIS 5-19
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT WERE YOU DOING OUTSIDE?
CONFRONTING SOME OBNOXIOUS TEENAGERS.
SMART IDEA.
LAURA, IF WE DON'T TELL THESE KIDS WHAT'S EXPECTED OF THEM...
...THEY'LL THINK THE WAY THEY'RE BEHAVING IS OK.
JUST DON'T GET ALL VIGILANTE ON ME.
...I DID NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT LEAVING THE GAS TANK EMPTY.
ARE YOU DOING A CHARLES BRONSON SQUINT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pays attention
6 Starts the betting
11 50-50 chance
12 Lamentation
14 More fashionable
15 Be unsteady
16 Wanted poster abbr.
17 Shy
19 Teeny
20 Bulb measure
22 Group of whales
23 Dimensions
24 Do some fleecing
26 Sought the America's Cup
28 Existed
30 Privy
31 Fetching person?
35 Analyze grammar
39 Actress Ball
40 URL ending
42 Actor Neeson
43 Rhyming tribute
44 "Star Wars" mastermind
46 Individual
47 Kind of pin
49 Rowling hero
51 Place for an ace?
52 Desolate
53 Anna of "Scary Movie"
54 Contestant

DOWN
1 Water pipe
2 What you will?
3 NYC winter hrs.
4 Air for a pair
5 Parsley serving
6 Best
7 Trudge along
8 Stop fasting
9 Fool
10 Cold evidence
11 Melts
13 Trapped
18 Possibly will
21 Lion's shade
23 Sandbar
25 Tatter
27 Filch
29 Locks
31 Political alliances
32 Friml or Bing
33 Summer quencher
34 Sinbad's flier
36 Revolting person?
37 With logic
38 Abrasive powder
41 Syrup source
44 Jeans-maker Strauss
45 Any time now
48 Thrice, in Rx's
50 Stick with a kick

Solution time: 27 mins.

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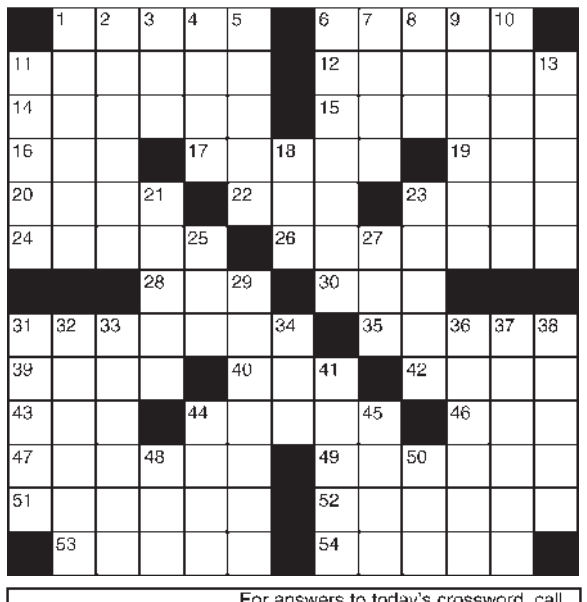
Yesterday's answer 5-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lily Cole, 24; Grace Jones, 64; Pete Townshend, 67; Nora Ephron, 71.

Happy Birthday: Look at your financial situation, your assets and your liabilities. You can jump ahead if you discuss your position and plans with the right agency or individual. An idea can turn into a lucrative pursuit that can also bring you great satisfaction and enjoyment. Enjoying what you do is half the battle. Your numbers are 3, 12, 19, 24, 28, 30, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Inattention to detail due to a time restriction will hurt you. An encounter or an old memory will open your eyes to new possibilities. Backtracking and implementing something you've used in the past will help fill a void. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your emotions will set you on a course that can alter your life. Follow your heart, but proceed cautiously. There will be a price to pay for stubbornness or indulgence. Refresh your memory and you'll find a way to please everyone. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your financial experience will play a role in the outcome of any encounter with institutions or authority figures. Knowing your rights and respectfully displaying intelligence will help you overcome any adversity. Love is highlighted late in the day. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't waste time trying to change the impossible. Focus on what you can accomplish and you will discover options that allow you to follow a path that doesn't require you to deal with the limitations that have been holding you back. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A chance to improve your financial situation is within reach. Focus on what you can do to make a difference. A short trip will help you choose a lifestyle that can ease your stress. Love and romance are on the rise. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Set your sights high and go after your goals. Traveling or networking will lead to ideas that promote making a transition that will improve your life and your future. Don't let a personal matter stand in the way of your success. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Work on projects you can complete on your own. Money matters should be dealt with promptly to avoid unnecessary costs. Home improvement, a move or sizing down will work in your favor. A relationship will improve if you discuss future plans. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Forward-thinking with progressive action will help you turn an OK event into a smashing success. Your input can bring you the results you want and help you grab the recognition that will allow you to expand in new directions. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Change things around at home to prepare to make a move or lifestyle change. Taking time to research a job that interests you will pay off. It's time for new personal and professional beginnings. Take a leap of faith. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make things happen. You have more control than you realize. Set your standards high and everyone will live up to your expectations. Nothing is impossible once you choose your course of action. Changes you make at home will bring great returns. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a moment to reconsider your options and to formulate the best possible move. Opposition will attempt to use emotional blackmail in order to get you to do something that encroaches on your space. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): There is money to be made. Get busy fleshing out your ideas and putting them to the test. You will gain all the support you need when you promote and present what you have to offer. Last-minute changes will lead to success. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, strong-willed and money-oriented. You appreciate quality.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1				4	3		
	9				6		5	
4			9	7				
							8	
		4	6		3	9		
	7							
				8	5			9
	8		2				7	
		5	7				6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	3	2	5	7	8	1	4
1	5	2	3	8	4	9	7	6
8	4	7	6	1	9	2	5	3
3	1	4	8	9	2	5	6	7
9	7	8	4	6	5	3	2	1
5	2	6	7	3	1	4	9	8
2	6	5	1	4	8	7	3	9
7	8	1	9	2	3	6	4	5
4	3	9	5	7	6	1	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EARMUFFS Solution: 5 letters

L	C	L	F	C	N	O	I	T	C	E	T	O	R	P
C	E	I	A	M	I	S	O	L	A	T	E	C	W	N
U	T	A	T	M	E	S	R	E	M	R	A	W	A	E
S	E	D	T	S	R	T	U	O	V	P	N	E	V	T
H	X	W	N	H	U	E	A	M	I	O	E	A	E	S
I	T	S	I	U	E	O	H	L	I	L	U	E	S	I
O	E	I	T	D	O	R	C	T	B	D	N	E	G	L
N	R	D	F	R	E	S	C	A	I	O	L	N	B	C
R	N	E	O	T	E	U	N	O	H	D	I	L	U	S
O	A	S	S	M	R	O	G	P	N	R	O	Ⓟ	R	R
W	L	E	U	T	I	N	O	A	A	C	S	Ⓐ	E	O
F	H	L	S	H	I	R	B	E	K	D	E	Ⓘ	V	S
C	O	N	S	I	C	N	H	E	A	D	D	Ⓡ	O	I
V	O	A	K	I	O	E	G	A	M	A	D	E	T	V
C	F	S	M	S	E	N	A	L	P	R	I	A	D	S

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Acoustic, Airplanes, Audio, Bandless, Block, Chester, Clip, Concerts, Construction, Cups, Cushion, Damage, External, Fashionable, Fits, Foam, Head, Hearing, Isolate, Leather, Listen, Metal, Microphone, Music, Noise, Over, Padded, Pair, Protection, Resting, Sides, Skiing, Soft, Sound, Thermal, Visors, Volumes, Warmers, Waves, Wide, Worn

Yesterday's Answer: Gesture

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

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Wishing Well®

5	7	6	7	6	7	6	2	5	7	5	2	4
B	P	D	R	I	O	S	Y	E	S	H	O	S
3	2	6	7	5	2	5	6	8	7	8	6	8
S	U	C	P	O	A	N	O	E	E	X	V	T
7	5	7	3	7	8	4	7	8	6	4	6	3
R	O	O	E	U	R	T	S	A	E	E	R	R
8	5	3	5	6	8	6	7	4	6	3	2	7
P	R	V	A	T	A	H	I	P	E	E	R	D
5	2	6	3	5	7	6	8	2	7	5	2	3
B	E	T	O	L	E	R	Y	S	A	E	T	T
8	7	6	2	8	2	4	3	8	4	8	6	4
C	S	U	E	H	A	C	H	E	A	C	T	R
6	2	4	2	8	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4
H	D	E	Y	K	F	E	U	R	L	S	L	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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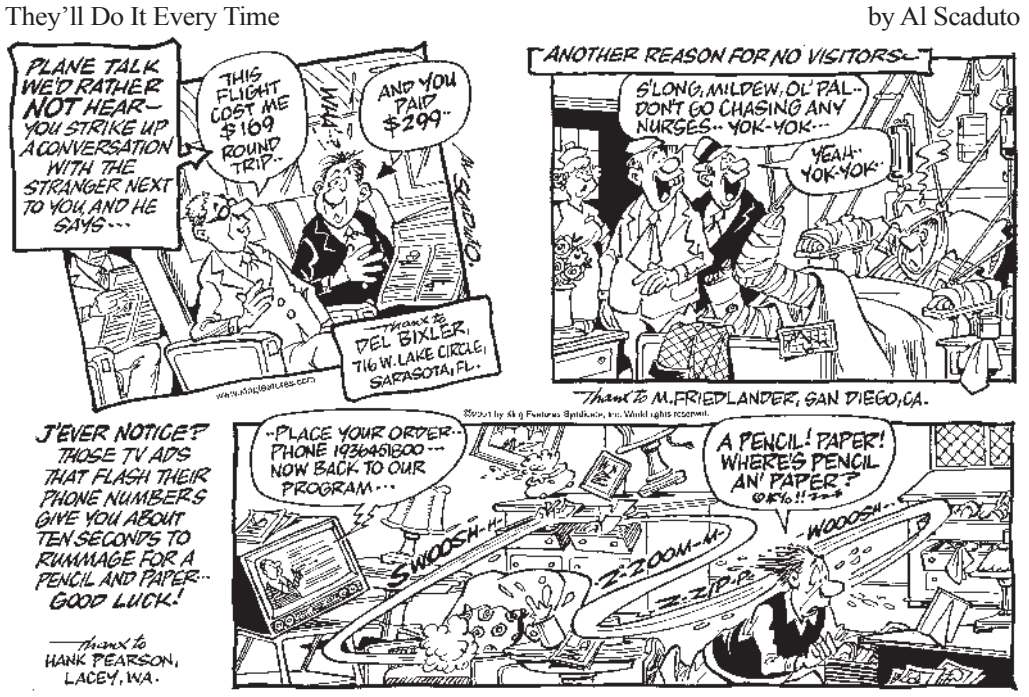
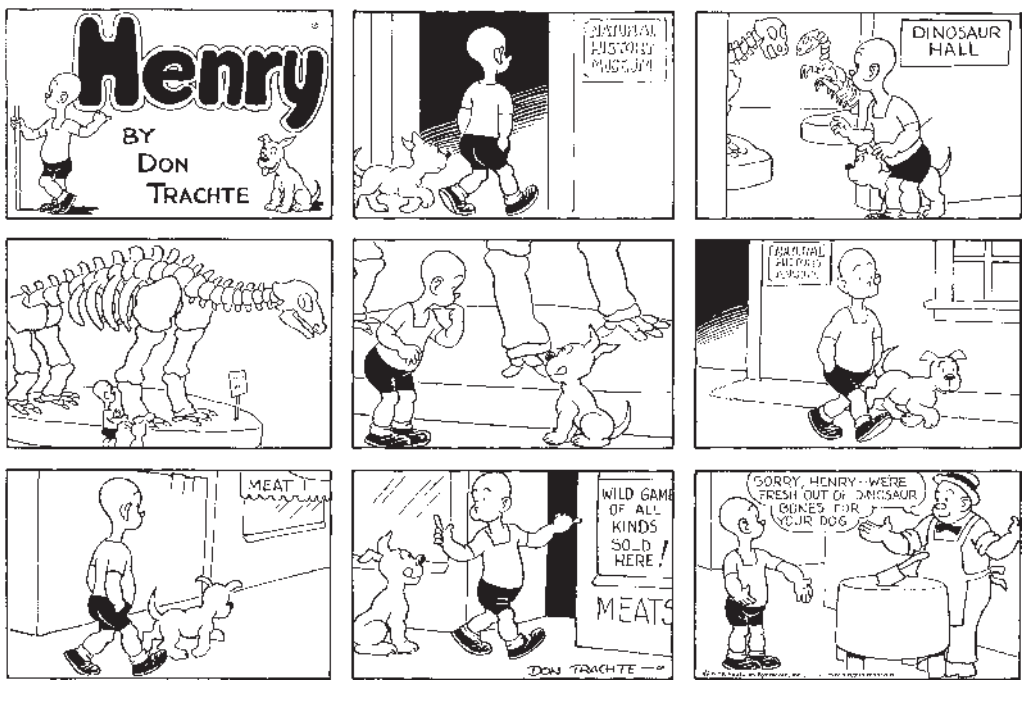
POPEYE
Hy Eisman
BURGERS ARE FOR LOSERS
Pierre's STEAK HOUSE
BUT THANKS TO MY BET ON "CANDY DANCER," I'M A WINNER!
SINCE I HAD A BIG PAYDAY AT THE TRACK...
...I'LL HAVE A STEAK
PORTERHOUSE, RIBEYE, SIRLOIN OR FILET MIGNON
SIRLOIN
FRIED, BROILED, GRILLED OR AU FOUR?
BROILED
RARE, MEDIUM OR WELL DONE?
MEDIUM
NOW FOR THE SAUCE...
...BUTTER, MUSHROOM CHIMICHURRI, BARBECUE, AU POIVRE, PIQUANTE OR BOURGUIGNONNE?
FIVE BURGERS COMIN' UP!
Hy Eisman

They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


PLANE TALK WE'D RATHER NOT HEAR— YOU STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH THE STRANGER NEXT TO YOU, AND HE SAYS...
THIS FLIGHT COST ME $169 ROUND TRIP..
AND YOU PAID $299..
Thanx to DEL BIXLER, 716 W. LAKE CIRCLE, SARASOTA, FL.
ANOTHER REASON FOR NO VISITORS—
S'LONG, MILDEW, OL' PAL— DON'T GO CHASING ANY NURSES.. YOK-YOK...
YEAH.. YOK-YOK..
Thank To M. FRIEDLANDER, SAN DIEGO, CA.
J'EVER NOTICE? THOSE TV ADS THAT FLASH THEIR PHONE NUMBERS GIVE YOU ABOUT TEN SECONDS TO RUMMAGE FOR A PENCIL AND PAPER.. GOOD LUCK!
Thanx to HANK PEARSON, LACEY, WA.
..PLACE YOUR ORDER.. PHONE 1936451600 --- NOW BACK TO OUR PROGRAM...
A PENCIL! PAPER! WHERE'S PENCIL AN' PAPER?
SWOOSH-H
Z-ZOOM-M
Z-ZIP-P
-WOOOSH--



Super Crossword

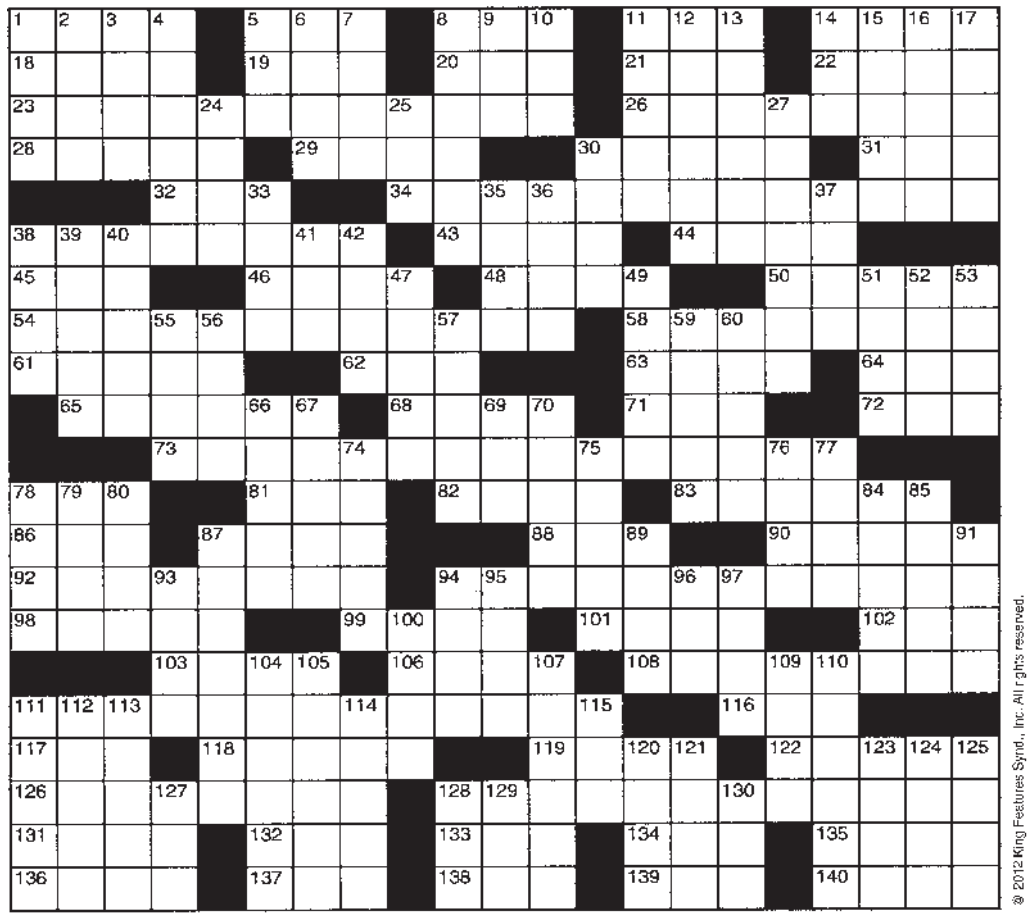
SOMETHING'S FISHY

ACROSS

1 Strike-breaker
5 Suffix with spat
8 Salon supply
11 Research site
14 Blind as —
18 — Romeo
19 Word with pack or rug
20 Generation
21 Air-quality org.
22 Pedestal part
23 Fishy actress?
26 Dignified
28 "— Gay"
29 Jannings or Gilels
30 "— Man" ('78 song)
31 — kwon do
32 Quiche ingredient
34 Fishy outlaw?
38 Bucolic
43 James of "Brian's Song"
44 Jacob's twin
45 A mean Amin
46 "Nabucco" number
48 Neighbor of Niger
50 Alcove
54 Fishy film?
58 Future
61 Submarine finder
62 — Tse-tung
63 Lurid Lugosi
64 Chest protector
65 Funt apparatus
68 Supreme leader?
71 Parka part
72 Southern constellation
73 Fishy physician?
78 Use a phaser
81 Letter from Athens
82 "Mein —" ("Cabaret" tune)
83 C&W's Tubb
86 Seville shout
87 Whirl
88 Actor Tognazzi
90 Cairo creed
92 Collegiate sport
94 Fishy TV show?
98 Crooked
99 French couturier
101 Dashboard feature
102 Cpl.'s superior
103 Border on
106 Bucket
108 Photo
111 Fishy writer?
116 Squirrel's snack
117 Author LeShan
118 Bell town
119 Pinza or Chaliapin
122 School tool
126 Chunky pasta
128 Fishy novel?
131 Nixon or Johnson
132 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
133 Chicken — king
134 Cow's comment
135 Unusual
136 Common Market currency
137 DC figure
138 Palindromic diarist
139 Woolly one
140 Part of Micronesia

DOWN

1 Close as can be
2 Family
3 "The Mod Squad" hairdo
4 "Petrouchka," for one
5 Decorative vase
6 Like some excuses
7 Mighty mite
8 Medicinal plant
9 Self-esteem
10 Singer Dickey
11 Paul of "American Graffiti"
12 Cochise or Geronimo
13 Washes
14 Fuss and feathers
15 Swahili, e.g.
16 Dwight's competition
17 Fiddled (with)
24 Desdemona's enemy
25 Loon lips
27 '82 Toto hit
30 Sociable starling
33 Alum
35 Shoestring
36 Bolger/Haley co-star
37 Throw in the towel
38 Prepares cherries
39 — committee
40 Tuscan town
41 Pound sound
42 Neeson or O'Flaherty
47 Video game company
49 Exclude
51 Arnaz's country
52 It grows on you
53 Napoleonic site
55 Sleep in the woods
56 Hurler Hershiser
57 Booze
59 Brink
60 Glue guy
66 Runs around in circles?
67 Grate stuff
69 Vane dir.
70 Emulate Roy Clark
74 Like many bathrooms
75 Coaxed
76 "I'm working —"
77 Nuthatch's home
78 "Nana" author
79 "Oh, woe!"
80 Act like a chicken
84 Winter mess
85 Ballroom dance
87 Lake sight
89 Birdsong of basketball
91 Lauer or LeBlanc
93 Paper quantity
94 Actor Beery
95 Like a desert
96 Solo of "Star Wars"
97 King of comedy
100 — facto
104 Opens
105 Daze
107 Tripoli native
109 Knitting stitch
110 Little mouse?
111 Sock a shuttlecock
112 "Farewell!"
113 Light beer
114 Alliance
115 Put away a pickle
120 Any
121 Chilly powder?
123 Inventive sort?
124 Neutral tone
125 Stink
127 Mil. address
128 Critic's god?
129 President Bush was one
130 "The Gold Bug" author



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MUSIC: Who wrote and performed the song "Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard"?
2. THEATER: "My Fair Lady" is a modern musical adaptation of which play?
3. GEOGRAPHY: The Palace of Versailles is located near what city?
4. PHYSICS: What is the branch of physics that deals with light?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote "Doctor Zhivago"?
6. LANGUAGE: What is the American term for the British perambulator?
7. ROYALS: From what house did Great Britain's King Edward VIII descend?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What does someone fear if he or she has chronomentrophobia?
9. SCIENCE: What is an ichnite?
10. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president said, "The chief business of the American people is business"?

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Answers

1. Paul Simon
2. "Pygmalion"
3. Paris
4. Optics
5. Boris Pasternak
6. Baby carriage
7. The House of Windsor
8. Clocks
9. Fossil footprint
10. Calvin Coolidge

Saturday's Answers

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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Pigs for sale, big white male, 2 females, Weiner pigs, quality stock. Breed or roast call 322-0268

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RETAIL SALES ASSOCIATES

Rock and roll and something else. Global unique, authentic and passionate. Think service, think expression. Imagine how you are going to help guests get their money's worth...the food, the experience, the attention, Not just serving them, but blowing them away so they come back again and again. You'll feel good here. Hard Rock. We're hiring NOW. Experience is required. Make your day. To apply, visit us at:

Inside the DFS Galleria
Garapan, Saipan

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Hard Rock CAFE SAIPAN

You Know Who You Are And Where To Work

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(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to pkt@hanmisaipan.com. Civil Travel Service Co., Ltd.

(1) Tour Guide: $5.05/hr, tips and commission. High school diploma or higher is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Applicants with work experience in the Saipan tourism industry are preferred. Email resume to knl@hanmisaipan.com. K.N.L. Co., Ltd. dba Happy Island Tour

WHATZIT Solution: To be or not to be, that is the question

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

In the United States District Court
For the Northern Mariana Islands
Bankruptcy Division

In re Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

Bankr. Case No. 12-00003

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Motion to Dismiss filed by the CNMI Government in the above-entitled matter is set for hearing before Hon. Robert J. Faris on **June 1, 2012** at **9:30 a.m.** in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan.

Dated: May 16, 2012

By: Office of the Attorney General

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2007 Nissan Quest minivan. Excellent condition. Color: Red, Mileage 44,700, Price: $11,500. If interested please call 287-7676

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Sandy Beach Homes 3BR, 2BTH beachfront Chalan Kanoa. Security cams, back-up power/water, washer/dryer in unit, AC, solar water heater. Income eligibility req. apply. $695/mo 235-7263. www.sandybeachhomes.net

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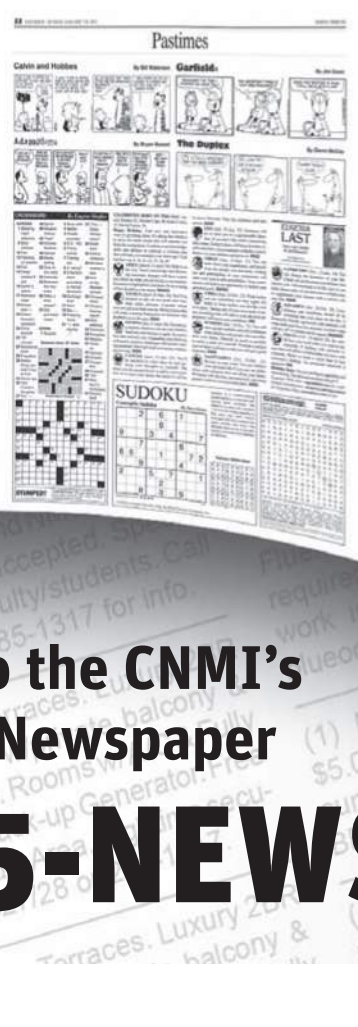

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Pacers pound Heat in Game 3, 94-75

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—LeBron James grabbed a seat on Miami's bench, lowered his head and stared down at the floor.

Way down.

The Heat are in a hole.

Roy Hibbert had 19 points and 18 rebounds, George Hill scored 20 and Danny Granger 17 as the Pacers, showing more balance, toughness and togetherness than favored Miami, throttled the malfunctioning Heat 94-75 on Thursday night in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Overlooked during the regular season and given little chance to upset the reigning East champions, the Pacers took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Game 4 is Sunday at raucous Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

James scored 22—16 in the first half before wearing down—and Mario Chalmers added 25 for Miami. However, Dwyane Wade, banged up and possibly slowed by a more serious injury, scored only 5 on 2-of-13 shooting for the Heat, already missing forward Chris Bosh because of a strained abdominal muscle and not expected to return for this series.

"It's obvious he wasn't himself." James said of Wade. "Does he want to play better? Of course. He's one of the best players in the world."

Wade didn't play like one and he also had an angry exchange during a timeout in the third quarter with coach Erik Spoelstra, who dismissed it as a heat-of-battle incident.

"That happens," Spoelstra said. "Anybody that has been part of a team or has been a coach or been a player, you have no idea how often things like that happen. That was during a very emotional part of the game. We were getting our butt kicked. Those exchanges happen all the time during the course of an NBA season.

"There's going to be a lot of times where guys say something, you don't like it. You get over it and you move on. We're all connected. Dwyane and I have been together for a long time, a long time. We've been through basically everything. A lot of different roles, a lot of different teams. That really is nothing. That is the least of our concern. That type of fire, shoot, that's good. That's the least of our concerns. Our concern is getting for Sunday."

Wade wouldn't discuss his dispute with Spoelstra.

Indiana outscored Miami 51-32 in the second half, when the Pacers could do no wrong.

They made big shots, challenged everything the Heat tossed in the air and didn't back down from a Miami team that appeared poised to make an easy run to the NBA finals after top-seeded Chicago lost Derrick Rose and was eliminated in the first round.

The Pacers, though, have other plans.

In the second half, Indiana forward David West flung James to the floor in the lane, and Granger later got in the superstar's face after a foul on a breakaway. After winning Game 2 in South Florida by three points, the Pacers wanted to show that win was no fluke and that they're for real.

Believe it.

They're two wins from tilting the balance of power in the East.

"We're certainly happy with the win," said Pacers coach Frank Vogel. "But we've got a lot of work to do."

Vogel's pregame message to his team: "Keep your edge, and enhance your edge."

Enhance, they did.

Hibbert controlled the glass, roaming the lane on both ends and finishing with five blocks.

"My primary focus is defense, defense, defense," he said. "I embrace that role and let the offense come to me. Them being one and done, that's what we talked about in the huddle," he said. "One shot and they're done."

Two more losses and the Heat are done.

With his team down 20 in the closing minutes, Spoelstra waved the white flag and pulled out first Wade, then James, who quickly removed his headband as he got to the bench and then pulled out the mouthpiece inscripted with XVI—the Roman numeral for 16—or the number of wins it takes to get a championship.

When the final horn sounded, the three-time MVP quickly exited the floor.

"When you lose a game like that, all you try to take it away and move on to the next one," James said. "They're playing some good basketball. We're playing pretty good defense on them. We're not scoring the ball."

AP

Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert, center, shoots between Miami Heat center Joel Anthony, left, and forward Shane Battier during the first half of Game 3 of their NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinal playoff series in Indianapolis, Thursday, May 17, 2012.

Indiana busted open a grind-it-out game with a 17-3 run in the third quarter, doing it with an inside-outside attack that had the Heat wondering what was coming next.

Pushed by a rocking home crowd wearing "Gold Swagger" T-shirts and chanting "Beat The Heat" every chance they could, the Pacers pushed their lead to 69-55 after three and then held off one brief run by the Heat in the fourth quarter.

Behind Miami's bench, owner Micky Arison and team president Pat Riley looked on in disbelief.

Despite playing almost 21 minutes and exerting himself on defense, James had enough energy to throw down a vicious left-handed dunk in the final minute of the first half, pulling the Heat even at 43-all. He looked back at the Miami bench as if to say, "How about a little help out here?"

He was doing it all.

Wade, on the other hand, was lost.

He missed all five field-goal attempts, made two turnovers and ran around like a first-time rookie and not a superstar playing in his 95th career postseason game.

Wade finally made his first field goal with 10:22 left in the third to put Miami up 47-45, but the Pacers went on a 10-1 run with Granger dropping a 3-pointer in front of the Heat bench to make it 55-48 and then playfully skipping down the sideline as Miami called a timeout.

With Bosh out, rehabbing in Florida and doubtful to be back at any point in this series, Spoelstra said "everything is out on the table. Everyone has to be ready."

He wasn't kidding.

Spoelstra made a dramatic change to his starting lineup, putting Shane Battier at power forward and using bench-riding center Dexter Pittman in place of Udonis Haslem and Ronny Turiaf in the first five along with James, Wade and Chalmers—a group he played together for just nine minutes during the regular season.

The moves smelled of desperation and maybe Spoelstra sensed his team was in more trouble than he wanted to admit.

And when the Pacers jumped to an 11-2 lead, amping up an already frenzied Indiana crowd, it appeared Miami was indeed in danger of dropping a second straight game.

However, with James leading the charge, the Heat responded by closing the first quarter on a 24-6 tear.

James and Wade were relaxed following the Heat's morning shootaround. There wasn't a hint of panic in either of their voices and they exuded been-here-done-that attitudes.

James downplayed the idea that he and his teammates would need to maintain some kind of "edge" to be best prepared for a pivotal Game 3 many felt would tilt the series.

"It's the postseason," said James, playing in his 100th postseason game. "There's no secrets about an edge or not having an edge. It's the postseason. You have to be ready and approach every possession as if it's the last. I'm always going to have an edge, so that's not going to change."

Well, things have changed.

Spurs 105, Clippers 88

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 22 points on his 30th birthday, leading San Antonio over fading Los Angeles and to a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

Veteran Tim Duncan had 18 for San Antonio, which has won 16 straight games and will travel to L.A. for Game 3 on Saturday.

Clippers star Chris Paul responded to his awful Game 1 with only a slightly better encore, scoring just 10 points.

Blake Griffin led Los Angeles with 20 points. His plan to manage his ailing knee so he would have enough steam for the fourth quarter proved moot, as both teams emptied their benches with another Spurs blowout assured.

The All-Star matchup of Paul vs. Parker went from a Game 1 bust to a lopsided mismatch. Clippers coach Vinny Del Negro says his star is still struggling with an aching hip and groin, even as Paul insists he's OK.

He again looked anything but. While Parker celebrated his birthday by more than tripling his seven points and dreadful 1-for-9 shooting in Game 1, Paul shot 4 of 9 and had just five assists.

At halftime, the third-place finisher in league's MVP voting had more personal fouls (3) than point (2), assists (2) or rebounds (2).

Duncan, on the other hand, turned back the clock. At 36 years old and playing in his 182nd postseason game—and with no contract beyond these playoffs—Duncan turned in another solid performance that sometimes recalled the former MVP who was going for his championships in his prime rather than the old-timer who's chasing a fifth ring now.

He scored 14 points in the first half—almost as much as the rest of the starting lineup—and finished 9-of-14 shooting. Points in the key weren't even close: the Spurs had 50, and the Clippers 18.

Boris Diaw added 16 points and Danny Green had 13 for the Spurs. Manu Ginobili scored 10 and was held scoreless in the second half.

Randy Foye was the Clippers' only other player in double digits, scoring 11.

'11 Nelson runner-up Palmer leads with opening 64

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Ryan Palmer has been thinking about redemption at the Byron Nelson Championship, and a chance at home to hold up that trophy.

The 2011 Nelson runner-up is off to a good start.

Palmer, who lives in Colleyville not far from the TPC Four Seasons, opened with a 6-under 64 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead over Marc Leishman and Alex Cejka.

Last year, Palmer birdied the 72nd hole to force a playoff against Keegan Bradley. Palmer then hit his approach into the greenside water to hand Bradley his first tour title.

"I didn't lose it last year by any means," Palmer said. "But to get back in the same setting with the same people watching, here where I live, and just to have that feeling again, this time be the guy standing with the trophy, that's been my focus."

Palmer's bogey-free start came on a relatively calm day. With only a light breeze, 85 players were at par or better in the first round on the 7,166-yard course where Palmer and Bradley finished 72 holes last year at 3-under 277.

Coming off his victory at The Players Championship last weekend, Matt Kuchar overcome an opening bogey and was in a group of seven players at 66.

"Coming off momentum, a little tired," said Kuchar, No. 5 in the world ranking. "It was a whole lot of extracurricular activities out of the norm for me, but I feel good about the round."

Kuchar's approach shot at No. 1 went over the green. He tried to putt it up the hill, but the ball ended up rolling back to his feet, prompting someone in the gallery to say, "I could have done that."

When Kuchar tried again, he got the ball within 4 feet for his only bogey. He was under par to stay after birdies at Nos. 3 and 4.

Bradley, who won the PGA Championship three months after the Nelson, was among 13 players who shot 67. His up-and-down round included four bogeys, five birdies and an eagle.

The only other top 10 player this week is 10th-ranked Phil Mickelson. Back at the Nelson for the first time in five years, he had a 70 with two birdies and two bogeys.

"It's a beautiful day, it's warm, not too hot, the greens are in great shape. They're receptive, you can get the ball stopped," said Mickelson, the 1996 Nelson champ. "Really good opportunity to take advantage of the course, and I just didn't."

Athletics edge Ranger in 10 innings, 5-4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Oakland's Kila Ka'aihue hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning as the Athletics shrugged off a disputed call that cost them the lead and still beat the Texas Rangers 5-4 on Thursday.

Ka'aihue's single off Mike Adams (0-2) drove in Jonny Gomes, who had three hits. Josh Reddick's homer had made it 4-4 in the seventh.

Oakland's Ryan Cook (1-0) escaped a ninth-inning jam to take the win. He has pitched 19 2-3 scoreless innings this season, most among American League relievers. Brian Fuentes recorded the save.

Oakland fell behind 4-3 in the sixth when Texas' Craig Gentry scored from third base on a squeeze bunt that A's pitcher Brandon McCarthy claimed he caught. Oakland manager Bob Melvin was ejected for arguing the call.

AP

Oakland Athletics Kila Ka'aihue (25) watches his RBI-single that drove in teammate Jonny Gomes in the 10th inning of the baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Thursday, May 17, 2012, in Arlington, Texas.

Red Sox 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Cody Ross homered and drove in four runs to help Boston end Tampa Bay's four-game winning streak.

Ross extended the lead to 5-2 on a two-run single with two outs in the eighth.

Red Sox starter Felix Doubront (4-1) allowed two runs over 5 2-3 innings to win his third straight start. He was hit on the ear by a ball during batting practice on Tuesday but cleared to start.

Rays starter Matt Moore (1-4) gave up three runs in six innings.

Blue Jays 4, Yankees 1

In Toronto, Jose Bautista and J.P. Arencibia each hit a two-run homer and that was enough for Toronto to down New York.

Bautista hit his second homer in two nights and 10th this season. He connected off Phil Hughes (3-5) who went 5 1-3 innings.

New York lost its third straight and fell to 0-9 this season when failing to hit a home run. The Yankees, who have scored only 12 runs across its nine losses this month, dropped into fourth place in the AL East.

Making his sixth major league start, Toronto's Drew Hutchison (3-1) allowed one run in six innings.

Orioles 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Adam Jones hit a two-run homer and J.J. Hardy also drove in a pair of runs as Baltimore beat Kansas City and notched a seventh straight road win.

The Orioles also improved to 12-1 when Jones hits a homer, including a victory the previous night, when his long shot in the 15th inning decided the game.

Orioles pitcher Brian Matusz (3-4) won for the third time in four starts after enduring a career-worst 12-decision losing streak. He allowed three runs and one walk in six innings.

Royals starter Luke Hochevar (3-4) went six innings.

Indians 6, Mariners 5, 11 innings

In Cleveland, Carlos Santana hit a game-ending single with one out and the bases loaded in the 11th inning, capping a two-run rally which lifted Cleveland over Seattle.

Michael Saunders' double in the top of the inning had given Seattle a 5-4 lead, but closer Brandon League (0-3) couldn't hold it.

Jose Lopez, who had tied the game in the eighth with a three-run homer, drew a leadoff walk and went to second on a wild pitch. After a strikeout and a walk, Asdrubal Cabrera's singled to tie the game and Santana hit the winner.

Indians reliever Joe Smith (4-1) got the win despite allowing the go-ahead run in the top of the 11th.

White Sox 6, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Chris Sale pitched effectively into the sixth inning, giving Chicago's rotation a much-needed solid outing, as the White Sox capitalized on some shoddy Los Angeles defense and won comfortably.

After a three-game stretch in which Chicago starters gave up a combined 18 earned runs over 14 1-3 innings, Sale (4-2) restored order in his sixth major league start. He struck out seven and gave up one run.

Angels starter C.J. Wilson (4-4) threw 88 pitches in 3 2-3 innings and tied a career worst with six walks while conceding four runs.

Twins 4, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Justin Morneau hit a two-run homer in his second game back from a wrist injury as Minnesota edged Detroit.

Twins starter P.J. Walters (1-1) allowed four hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Morneau's homer off Doug Fister (0-2) and opened the scoring in the third, and Trevor Plouffe followed with a long ball. Minnesota led 4-0 before the Tigers came back with three solo homers.

Braves 7, Marlins 0

In Atlanta, the Braves' Brandon Beachy pitched a complete game shutout to guide the team to a win over the Miami Marlins and top spot in the National League East division.

Beachy (5-1), who has won five straight decisions, pitched his first complete game. He had no walks and six strikeouts, lowering his major league-best ERA from 1.60 to 1.33.

He struck out two in the ninth inning to cap Atlanta's first shutout of the season as the Braves moved above Washington at the head of the division.

Freddie Freeman homered and Chipper Jones had two hits for the Braves.

Marlins starter Ricky Nolasco (4-2) gave up four runs in four innings.

Giants 7, Cardinals 5

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford hit a two-run single as San Francisco capitalized on shoddy fielding by St. Louis.

St. Louis made three errors in a game for the second time this week. Three of the five runs scored off Adam Wainwright (2-5) were unearned.

Giants starter Matt Cain (3-2) got some overdue run support to take the win. Since his first season in the majors in 2006, he has received a major league-low 3.89 runs of support per game.

Pirates 5, Nationals 3

In Washington, Andrew McCutchen homered twice in Pittsburgh's win over Washington.

Pirates starter James McDonald (3-2) struck out a career-high 11 and retired his first 13 batters. He was helped by two spectacular plays on defense, from Casey McGehee at first base and McCutchen in center field.

Rod Barajas added a two-run homer and three hits for Pittsburgh.

Nationals starter Jordan Zimmermann (2-4) gave up a season-worst four runs in six innings.

Mets 9, Reds 4

In New York, David Wright lined his second double of the game to break the tie in the eighth inning and give New York victory over Cincinnati.

Down 4-0, the Mets began their comeback in the middle innings.

Ronny Cedeno's three-run homer capped a five-run eighth against Logan Ondrusek (3-1), a burst that began with a neatly placed bunt single by backup catcher Rob Johnson with one out.

Wright was up next and sent a one-hopper off the wall in center for a 5-4 lead. Wright raised his majors-leading average to .411.

A trio of Mets relievers held the Reds scoreless ball, with Bobby Parnell (1-0) getting the win.

Dodgers 8, Padres 1

In San Diego, Aaron Harang held his former team over seven shutout innings and steered Los Angeles to victory over San Diego.

Harang (3-2) struck out six and walked none to beat his hometown Padres for the first time in three starts against them this year. He was 0-5 in his previous seven starts against San Diego. Harang also managed to get a hit, one of 12 for the Dodgers.

Padres starter Edinson Volquez (2-2) allowed five runs in five innings.

Phillies 8, Cubs 7

In Chicago, Roy Halladay threw eight innings for his first victory in a month as Philadelphia held off Chicago for its season-best fifth straight victory.

Halladay (4-3) hadn't won in five starts, and had lost three straight decisions to match a career high. But he limited the Cubs to three runs. He has allowed three earned runs or fewer in eight of his nine starts this season.

Chicago's Welington Castillo stroked a three-run double in the ninth to cut the deficit to one run, but Phillies closer Jonathan Papelbon retired Reed Johnson on a grounder for his 11th save.

Cubs starter Chris Volstad (0-6) endured his 19th straight start without a win. He lasted just two innings, allowing six hits and three walks.

Carlos Ruiz had four hits and three RBIs for the Phillies while Jimmy Rollins scored three times as Philadelphia moved over .500 for the first time since winning its season opener.

Astros 4, Brewers 0

In Houston, Jed Lowrie hit a two-run homer as Houston downed Milwaukee.

Astros starter J.A. Happ (3-3) pitched out of trouble for six scoreless innings, escaping jam after jam as the Brewers stranded eight runners.

Brewers starter Shaun Marcum (2-2) allowed a season-worst nine hits in five innings.

Diamondbacks 9, Rockies 7

In Denver, Justin Upton hit a two-out, two-run homer off in the ninth inning to give Arizona victory over Colorado in a game that was briefly delayed by a swarm of bees.

Upton sent a fastball from Rockies closer Rafael Betancourt (1-1) over the right field fence for his first homer in two weeks.

Willie Bloomquist and Ryan Roberts also drove in two runs apiece for the Diamondbacks.

Brad Ziegler (2-1) got one out for the win.

Saints' Vilma sues Roger Goodell for defamation

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Suspended Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma filed a defamation lawsuit Thursday against NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, claiming the league's top executive made false statements that tarnished Vilma's reputation and hindered his ability to earn a living playing football.

The suit in U.S. District Court in New Orleans claims Goodell, "relied on, at best, hearsay, circumstantial evidence and lies" in making comments about Vilma while discussing the NFL's bounty investigation of the New Orleans Saints.

Goodell has said Vilma was a leader of the team's bounty program that put up thousands of dollars for hits which took out opposing teams' star players from 2009-11, including $10,000 each on then-Arizona quarterback Kurt Warner and then-Minnesota quarterback Brett Favre during the playoffs in 2010.

"Commissioner Goodell opted to make very public and unfortunately erroneous allegations against Jonathan," said Vilma's attorney, Peter Ginsberg. "By making these false and public statements, he has significantly harmed Jonathan's reputation and ability to make a living.

"By suing Commissioner Goodell in court, Jonathan opted to use a fair playing field where he has procedural rights and protections to remedy the harm Commissioner Goodell has done to him."

Vilma wrote on his Twitter account that, "As I've said before..I NEVER PAID, NOR INTENDED TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY, TO ANY PLAYER FOR INTENTIONALLY HURTING AN OPPONENT."

Goodell has suspended Vilma, an eight-year veteran and defensive captain, for the entire 2012 season. Vilma and three other current of former Saints who received shorter suspensions—defensive end Will Smith, defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove and linebacker Scott Fujita—all have appealed their punishments. Hargrove now plays for Green Bay while Fujita is with Cleveland.

"We have not yet reviewed the filing," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. "However, our commitment to player safety and the integrity of the game is our main consideration. We recognize that not everyone will agree with decisions that need to be made."

The NFL also hired former federal prosecutor Mary Jo White in late 2011 to review its evidence in the case, and White has said the NFL's findings are corroborated by multiple independent witnesses as well as documentation.

Vilma's lawsuit, which is expected to be heard by Judge Ginger Berrigan, asks for unspecified monetary damages as well as punitive damage and attorneys fees.

The lawsuit states that Goodell, "knew and intended that Vilma would suffer severe emotional distress" when the NFL published its bounty report and handed down punishment for the 30-year-old linebacker.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	25	14	.641	–
Tampa Bay	24	15	.615	1
Toronto	21	18	.538	4
New York	20	18	.526	4 1/2
Boston	18	20	.474	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	22	16	.579	–
Detroit	18	20	.474	4
Chicago	18	21	.462	4 1/2
Kansas City	15	22	.405	6 1/2
Minnesota	12	26	.316	10

West Division

Texas	24	15	.615	–
Oakland	20	19	.513	4
Los Angeles	17	22	.436	7
Seattle	16	24	.400	8 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	24	15	.615	–
Washington	23	15	.605	1/2
New York	21	17	.553	2 1/2
Miami	20	18	.526	3 1/2
Philadelphia	20	19	.513	4

Central Division

St. Louis	22	16	.579	–
Cincinnati	19	18	.514	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	18	20	.474	4
Houston	17	21	.447	5
Milwaukee	16	22	.421	6
Chicago	15	23	.395	7

West Division

Los Angeles	25	13	.658	–
San Francisco	19	19	.500	6
Arizona	17	22	.436	8 1/2
Colorado	15	22	.405	9 1/2
San Diego	14	25	.359	11 1/2

BYRON NELSON CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Scores Thursday from the $6.5-million Byron Nelson Championship at the par-70 (35-35), 7,166-yard TPC Four Seasons Resort

FIRST ROUND

Ryan Palmer	32-32—64
Marc Leishman	34-31—65
Alex Cejka	34-31—65
Scott Piercy	33-33—66
Charley Hoffman	32-34—66
Bill Lunde	34-32—66
Blake Adams	34-32—66
Matt Kuchar	33-33—66
Dicky Pride	34-32—66
Andres Gonzales	30-36—66
Greg Owen	35-32—67
Josh Teater	34-33—67
James Driscoll	34-33—67
Ricky Barnes	33-34—67
Jason Dufner	32-35—67
Jhonattan Vegas	35-32—67
Tim Petrovic	37-30—67
Keegan Bradley	36-31—67
Pat Perez	34-33—67
Chris Riley	33-34—67
Ryuji Imada	35-32—67
Kevin Kisner	33-34—67
Todd Demsey	33-34—67
Chris Couch	34-34—68
Rich Beem	34-34—68
J.J. Henry	35-33—68
Charles Howell III	34-34—68
Carl Pettersson	34-34—68
Jerry Kelly	34-34—68
Daniel Chopra	35-33—68
Nathan Green	35-33—68
Jonas Blixt	32-36—68
Will Claxton	34-34—68
Zack Miller	35-33—68
Richard H. Lee	32-36—68
David Mathis	34-34—68
Chad Campbell	34-34—68
Vijay Singh	34-34—68
Padraig Harrington	31-37—68
Harrison Frazar	35-33—68
D.A. Points	36-32—68
Jason Day	31-37—68
Gary Woodland	33-35—68
Mathew Goggin	35-34—69
Kevin Chappell	36-33—69
Troy Kelly	33-36—69
Michael Putnam	34-35—69
Alexandre Rocha	37-32—69
Patrick Reed	33-36—69
Billy Mayfair	34-35—69
Derek Lamely	35-34—69
Ken Duke	36-33—69
Boo Weekley	34-35—69
Hank Kuehne	36-33—69
Hunter Haas	34-35—69
Todd Hamilton	35-35—70
Greg Chalmers	36-34—70
Jeff Overton	34-36—70
Phil Mickelson	35-35—70
Ernie Els	35-35—70
John Huh	35-35—70
Scott Stallings	35-35—70
Jason Bohn	35-35—70
Rocco Mediate	35-35—70
Heath Slocum	33-37—70
Brandt Jobe	35-35—70
Nick O'Hern	36-34—70
Joe Durant	37-33—70
Vaughn Taylor	37-33—70
Jimmy Walker	35-35—70
Russell Knox	35-35—70
William McGirt	36-34—70
Tommy Biershenk	34-36—70
Erik Compton	33-37—70
Briny Baird	36-34—70
John Mallinger	34-36—70
Brendan Steele	34-36—70
Shane Bertsch	36-34—70
Tim Herron	35-35—70
J.J. Killeen	36-34—70
Steve Wheatcroft	33-37—70
Fran Quinn	37-33—70
Kyle Reifers	36-34—70
Charlie Beljan	33-37—70
Scott Brown	33-37—70
Johnson Wagner	36-35—71
Gavin Coles	37-34—71
Richard S. Johnson	36-35—71
John Merrick	34-37—71
Bobby Gates	34-37—71
Danny Lee	37-34—71
Graham DeLaet	35-36—71
Troy Matteson	37-34—71
Steve Flesch	38-33—71
Robert Garrigus	38-33—71
Brian Gay	37-34—71
John Rollins	32-39—71
Rod Pampling	34-37—71
Miguel Angel Carballo	38-33—71
Stephen Gangluff	35-36—71
Scott Dunlap	37-35—72
Chez Reavie	36-36—72
Cameron Beckman	35-37—72
David Duval	36-36—72
Sung Kang	34-38—72
Duffy Waldorf	35-37—72
Mark Anderson	36-36—72
Brendon Todd	38-34—72
Jeff Maggert	33-39—72
Matt Jones	35-37—72
D.J. Trahan	36-36—72
Arjun Atwal	36-36—72
Andres Romero	38-34—72
Tommy Gainey	36-36—72
Colt Knost	34-38—72
Jason Kokrak	34-38—72
Gary Christian	35-37—72
Jamie Lovemark	39-33—72
Bryden Macpherson	35-37—72
Patrick Sheehan	37-36—73
Garrett Willis	37-36—73
Bob Estes	37-36—73
Adam Scott	36-37—73
Louis Oosthuizen	33-40—73
Matt Bettencourt	35-38—73
Marc Turnesa	38-35—73
Joey Snyder III	36-37—73
Kyle Thompson	37-36—73
Edward Loar	36-37—73
Chris DiMarco	38-35—73
Brett Wetterich	35-38—73
Justin Leonard	37-36—73
Roland Thatcher	36-37—73
Brian Davis	37-36—73
Seung-Yul Noh	35-38—73
Paul Haley II	37-36—73
Steven Bowditch	38-35—73
Robert Gamez	38-36—74
Y.E. Yang	39-35—74
Stephen Ames	38-36—74
Matt McQuillan	37-37—74
Martin Flores	38-36—74
Roberto Castro	35-39—74
Mike Weir	37-38—75
Rory Sabbatini	37-38—75
Michael Bradley	38-37—75
Marco Dawson	34-41—75
Billy Hurley III	39-37—76
Garth Mulroy	37-39—76
Brian P. Ricketts	35-41—76
Kris Blanks	40-37—77
Kelly Kraft	38-39—77
Billy Horschel	38-39—77
Shaun Micheel	40-38—78
Travis Wadkins	40-41—81
Stuart Deane	42-40—82

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Art Deleon Guerrero tops SGA April Ace

Art Deleon Guerrero won the Saipan Golfers Association April Ace of the Month Tournament held last April 15 at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Deleon Guerrero beat 28 other golfers for the title after carding a net score of 65. He shot identical 46s in the front and back for a raw score of 92, which minus his 27 handicap gave Deleon Guerrero the score to beat.

The April Ace also had one birdie and score a longest drive victory in last month's tournament.

Netting a 69, Ray Dela Cruz placed second with one birdie, while Joe Demapan placed third with a net score of 71. The latter also had one closest-to-the-pin in hole No. 7 and two birdies.

Trailing behind the Top 3 finishers was Ben Aldan who netted a 72, followed by Juan Babauta, Tony Deleon Guerrero, and Eun Taeck Jung. All three tied with a net score of 73.

Also seeing action in the April competition were Frances Sablan (net score 74), Jesse Atalig (net score 75, one birdie, and an impressive eagle), Edward Sablan and James Whang (both had a net score 76), Ned Norita (net score 77, longest drive in hole No. 14 and two birdies), Mariano Fajardo (net score 77, closest-to-the-pin in hole No. 13 and three birdies), Martin Sablan (net score 77), Steve Jang (net score 78, closest-to-the-pin in hole No. 3 and three birdies), Steve Balakrishna (net score 79 and two birdies), Frank Castro (net score 79), John Cruz (net score 79), Ray San Nicolas (net score 79 and a birdie), Joe Deleon Guerrero (net score 80), Danny Quitugua (net score 80), Nick Sablan (net score 81, closest-to-the-pin in hole No. 17, with an impressive zero handicap; last month his handicap was a more impressive +3, and one birdie), Das Krishnan (net score 81), Larry Deleon Guerrero (net score 81), Ed Manibusan (net score 82 with an impressive +1 handicap), James Nelson (net score 83), Sonny Flores (net score 84), Juan Lizama (net score 85), and Frankie Pangelinan (net score 85 and a birdie).

SGA has scheduled its May Ace of the Month Tournament tomorrow, May 20, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

Show time is at 9am with a tee time of 10:30am. Participants are requested to confirm their participation with any of SGA officers—Mariano Fajardo, Larry Deleon Guerrero, Edward and Frances Sablan, or tournament director Nick Sablan. ***(Mark Rabago)***

THECEEL

From Page 28

tournament. Amami Sakano (2,900), Daniel Park (2,650), and Jake Lee (2,550) make up the Top 5 in the boys U18.

Thea Minor played most of the year in the boys 18-and-under and finished in sixth place with 1,500 points.

In the boys 15-and-under, Christopher Cajigan leads the group with wins in the DFS, PIC, and Junior Tennis tourneys giving him 4,400 points. Carl Dela Cruz took the No. 2 spot with his win in the White Coconut tourney giving him a large chunk of his 4,225 points.

The rest of the Top 5 are Seiya Eda (3,050), Moris Villanueva (2,000), and Dylan Ackerman (2,000).

Mikayla Lopez, meanwhile, swept all four junior tournaments for the season to lock the No. 1 ranking in the girls 15-and-under. Her 5,500 points is most a player can get for a season.

Negahr Rastguiy (3,225), Emily Jones (2,650), Adele Hudkins (2,200), and Carol Lee (1,350) make up the rest of the Top 5 in the girls U15.

Luther Lizama is No. 1 in the boys 12-and-under with wins in the White Coconut and PIC tourneys giving him 4,625 points. Alex Park is No. 2 with 4,100, including a win in the season-ending CNMI Juniors. Clayton Izuka (2,900), Michael Ren (2,000), and Micheal Jones (1,825) complete the Top 5.

The girls 12-and-under has Carol Lee duplicating Lopez's sweep in the girls U15 with victories in all five junior tennis tourneys of the year to finish with a perfect 5,500 points. Isabel Heras came in runner-up to Lopez all season and had 4,125 points, while Julia Ishikawa (3,100), Elizaveta Atalig (2,150), and Ami Tsukagosgi (1,800) completed the Top 5.

Robbie Schorr won the White Coconut and Junior Tennis tourneys to take the No. 1 spot in the boys 10-and-under division with 3,250 points. Joshua Abrangan came in second with 2,300 points, followed by A.J. Hudkins (1,750), Mondo Taniguchi (1,700), and Cole Chambers (1,680).

In the girls 10-and-under, No. 1 Malika Miyawaki has 3,750 points after winning the White Coconut and Junior Tennis competitions. Catherine Atalig is second with her 2,625 points with Tania Tan (2,000), Mami Sakano (1,800), and Asia Raulerson (1,450) grabbing the rest of the Top 5 spots.

Micronesian Jr. Tennis Championships

In related news, the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will hold the 31st Annual Micronesian Junior Tennis Championships from May 25 to 28 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

There will be four boys and girls divisions—U18, U15, U12, and U10. There will also be a U10 mini tennis tournament open for both boys and girls.

For more information, call NMITA's Jeff Race at 483-5652.

MPU-2

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the 5'11" midfielder found the back of the net seven times in the romp.

Brian Lee was equally impressive for the undefeated team, scoring five goals. Others who connected against Tan Holdings FC were Daniel Lim, John Raymond Taisacan (twice), and Ryota Ito.

The lone goal for Tan Holdings FC, which dropped to a 1-1-7 win-draw-loss record, was credited to Jeremie Tanghal.

In other boys U15 matches last week, MPU-1 Blue (1-8-5) earned its first win of the season with an 8-0 shellacking of Matansa Football Club (5-1-3); Paire Football Club (6-1-2) clobbered MPU-2, 10-0; Tan Holdings FC beat PFC, 2-0; and Matansa FC defeated Shirley's Football Club (3-0-6), 2-0.

MEN'S DIVISION

Over in the 2012 Men's Spring League, Wild Bill's rebounded from its first loss of the season with a 4-1 spanking of Inter Football Club last May 13 at the Oleai pitch.

Adul Detdon accounted for half of Wild Bill's goal total with two, while Unsa Tanapon and Jeeraphong Thoensaket also found the back of the net to improve Wild Bill's record to 7-0-1. The loss was the second for Inter FC, which also has four wins and two draws.

In other men's league games, Paire FC (2-3-3) and Matansa FC (3-1-2) settled for a 1-1 draw, Korea Football Association of Saipan (2-2-4) nipped Sky FC (0-2-6), and Inter beat Matansa FC, 0-3.

U15 GIRLS

Only two games were on tap in the 2012 Girls U15 Spring Youth League with Shirley's FC (6-2-0) beating Matansa FC (3-2-3), 4-1, last May 12 at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

The other match saw Matansa FC rebound from that loss a couple of hours later with 2-0 win over Paire FC (1-2-5).

WOMEN'S DIVISION

In the 2012 Women's 11 Aside, Shirley's FC improved to seven wins against a draw with a 7-0 domination of Matansa FC.

Lalaine Pagarao completed a hat trick for Shirley's FC, scoring in the 22nd, 33rd, and 54th minutes. Also making goals for the team were Charlene Lizardo, Marielle Gariguez, Jeraldine Castillo, and Jhaneeka Atalig.

It was the seventh loss in eight games for Matansa FC, which also had a draw in its previous matches.

In other results, MPU (4-1-3) bowled over Tan Holdings FC (0-1-7), 5-1; and Paire FC (7-1-0) edged Inter FC, 2-1 (3-1-4).

FUTSAL

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Schedules and other information will be handed out once teams are defined.

For more information, contact the Saipan Soccer School office at 235-8747 ext. 148 or call Mae Ito at 287-3607 or Jersh Angeles at 285-7387.

2012 Summer Soccer Camp

In related news, the Saipan Soccer School will conduct its 2012 Summer Soccer Camp for U18 and U10 boys and girls.

Registration is free and will start on June 11. Sessions will last for two weeks and will be run from Monday to Friday. Sessions are as follows:

- 1st session – June 11 to June 22
- 2nd session – June 25 to July 6
- 3rd session – July 9 to July 20
- 4th session – July 23 to Aug. 3

U10 boys and girls sessions are from 8am to 9:30am and U8 boys and girls sessions are from 10am to 11:30am. Parents are encouraged to enroll their children and enjoy the basic and advanced fundamentals and skills of the game.

For more information please contact the Saipan Soccer School Office at 235-8747 ext 148 or call Mae Ito at 287-3607 or Jersh Angeles at 285-7387. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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sumes at 3pm, also on Sunday, with the masters division or Budweiser Cup for 39-and-over players.

Six teams will vie for supremacy in the masters, namely MDX/Armatech, Bayani /Benjie Abadilla, Samahang Laguna /Jerry, UPAA/Hector, Batangas Blades/ Fongs Bakery, and Civic Boys/Treskellion.

MDX/Armatech is the defending champion in the masters. The team beat 2010 champion Cabalen/Wings Travel, 84-79, in the finals last year. Meanwhile, in the 15 to 20 division, the Jets defeated Filcag in the finals, 86-80, in 2011. The 14-and-under, meanwhile, will be making its inaugural season.

Malasarte said this year's UFO games will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525, Ed Manalili at 483-4337, Boy Ching at 287-6046, or Abner Venus at 888-7764.

Athletics edge Ranger in 10 innings, 5-4

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Pacers pound Heat in Game 3, 94-75

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Theceel, Miller grab top rankings

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Theceel Minor made hay while the sun shone—or better yet while little sister Thea dabbled in the boys field—as she topped the junior rankings of the 2011-2012 season of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.

The elder Minor finished No. 1 in the girls 18-and-under division after accumulating 4,875 points.

She earned 750 points for reaching the semis of the DFS Junior Tennis Championships, 1,000 points apiece for topping the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, White Coconut Tennis Championships, and Pacific Islands Club Championships, and 1,125 points for finishing runner-up to Thea in the recent CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

Alina Ishikawa came in second in the girls U18 age division with 2,700 points, followed by Thea Minor (2,500), Jodel Fernandez (1,700), Melody Johnson (1,500), and Amy Arenovski (1,275).

Christian Miller, meanwhile, grabbed the No. 1 spot in the boys 18-and-under with 4,100 points built around first place finishes in the White Coconut, PIC, and Junior Tennis championships.

Rafael Jones was second in the age group with 3,475 points, highlighted by a win in the DFS

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MPU-2 Silver continues domination in boys U15

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MPU-2 Silver made it nine wins in nine games in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's 2012 Boys U15 Spring Youth League.

Its latest victim was Tan Holdings Football Club, which succumbed to the powerhouse squad in a score of 16-1 last May 12 at the Oleai Sports Complex field.

Jehn Joyner was responsible for nearly half of MPU-2's goals, as

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Wild Bill's players, seen here in a file photo, rebounded from its first loss of the season with a victory over Inter Football Club as the 2012 Men's Spring League continued last May 13 at the Oleai Sports Complex pitch.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Futsal league kicks off next month

The Saipan Soccer School will have three divisions when its 2012 Futsal League kicks off on June 18 at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The three divisions are made up of the youth division (U14 boys and U18 boys), the men's division, and women's division.

Registration fee for all players is $10 and deadline for registration/waiver forms with fee is on June 15 when the league star..

The school said players must complete and sign a registration and waiver form and players under the age of 18 must have their parent's or guardian's signature.

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Futsal returns as the Saipan Soccer School will have youth, men's, and women's divisions on tap beginning June 18 at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

All set for start of UFO caging tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The United Filipino Organization's 10th Inter-Organizational Basketball League will unfurl tomorrow morning beginning with the Docomo Pacific Cup for youth players at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said the competition is set at 9am with participating teams parading with their muses in a simple opening ceremony.

The youth division will have two age groups—the 15-20 and the 14-and-under divisions. Seeing action in the former are MDX/Mariana Resort & Spa, SIP/Flor Miranda, Bayani /DYS Jr National A, Visminda/AON Jr National B, DeMolay/Gene's Barber, and Power/Hi Five.

The 14-and-under division, meanwhile, will have MDX/Armatech, SMF/DYS, Boholanos/Hi Five, and Bayani/San Vicente Team.

Malasarte said only one game each in the 15-20 and 14-and-under age groups will be played on Sunday to make way for the opening of the 17-and-under Micronesian Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX/Armatech's Martin Moreno is seen here going up for a shot against a MAFEA/RNV defender during their regular season game in last year's UFO Masters Docomo Cup at the TSL Sports Complex.

The UFO caging then re-

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